

July 10 1996

Friday October 18 1996

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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

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Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

46.687

Friday Review



Me and Shane MacGowan A rock wife speaks

Music, page 12



The men who made Mandela

Screen, page 6

With European weather

Russia plunges into crisis

Yeltsin axes Lebed after coup rumour

David Hearst and James Meek in Moscow

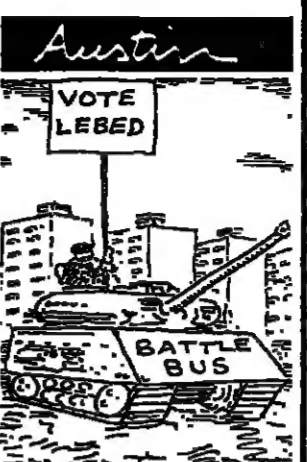
RUSSIA was plunged deeper into crisis last night as General Alexander Lebed was dramatically and unceremoniously sacked as security chief by Boris Yeltsin.

organising a secret 50,000-strong army and was prepared to seize power. With Moscow on a full security alert, Mr Yeltsin was forced to act. He appeared shakily on nationwide television and accused Gen Lebed of splitting up his security team and running an election race while the president was still in office.

"The question was only when I was the black sheep," he added ominously that without his peacemaking efforts with rebel Chechens, the situation there would deteriorate. This, he said — referring to young army conscripts sent to fight the Chechens — "will be a matter for Russian mothers".

He accused the president's chief of staff, Anatoly Chubais, of manipulating Mr Yeltsin to engineer the sacking. The trigger for this, he said, had been a package of documents naming those responsible for the Chechen war, which Gen Lebed had sent to the president on Tuesday.

Chubais' attempts to establish a regency. He wants to be president," he said. Gen Lebed's sacking means Mr Yeltsin now has no choice but to undergo his operation as soon as possible, in the hope that this will give him a new lease of life. A lame-duck presidency, where the real decisions are taken by the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, will be too weak to withstand pressure for the president to stand down and for new elections to be called.



Gay bishop fired after same-sex 'marriages'

Maideleine Bunting
Religious Affairs Editor

THE only openly homosexual bishop in the Church of England has been sacked for blessing same-sex "marriages".

Plea for support to take sperm case to appeal court

Widow will fight on to have baby by husband

Clare Dyer

SHE was known only by her initials, until yesterday. Diane Blood wanted her anonymity to appeal for funds to continue her fight for the right to conceive. Her desire to have a baby by her dead husband, first revealed in the Guardian, remained overwhelming.



Diane Blood, who yesterday lost her fight to be inseminated with her late husband's sperm

the couple had talked about a magazine article about a widow wanting to be inseminated with her dead husband's sperm. Mrs Blood said: "We agreed that if we were ever in that position, that's what we'd like to do."

Mrs Blood, whose legal battle has so far cost her £50,000 and a second mortgage on the bungalow she shared with her husband in Workington, Cumbria, could have a child to a stranger, if there was written permission. But not to the man she loved.

Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court's family division, said his hands were tied. Mrs Blood had done a great public service in bringing a test case over an anomaly in the six-year legislation governing sperm donations.

Mrs Blood risked having to pay the authority's £30,000 costs. But Sir Stephen refused to make a costs order. Sir Stephen said: "My heart goes out to this applicant who wishes to preserve an essential part of her late beloved husband. The refusal to permit her to do so is for her in the nature of a double bereavement. It stirs the emotions and evokes what I believe to be universal sympathy for the applicant."

'Why should my life as I had planned it be ended?'

Diane Blood yesterday

Referees hesitate over showing red card to sending-off incentive scheme

REFEREEs who persistently combat football violence with multiple bookings and sendings-off are being encouraged to increase their productivity further with an incentive scheme which includes financial awards and holidays in Florida, writes David Hopps.

England's most punctilious officials will no longer have to endure the loathing of fans without recompense, and can expect their special talents to be rewarded.

The video game company Sega has approached the Referees' Association with a view to sponsoring the last symbol of impartiality: the referee's red and yellow cards, which in the latest Fifa-inspired clampdown are being brandished so often that they are recognised as an ideal marketing opportunity.

England's League referees, who have never entered a sponsorship agreement, have been told of the offer, and so far have been uncharacteristically slow in dismissing it.

With marketing opportunities increasingly at a premium, and cricket having already set the tone by plastering National Grid over its umpires' coats, the company contends that its offer remains virtual reality.

World News

Swiss bankers have defied charges of benefiting from the Holocaust by diverting cash from murdered Jews to Swiss citizens.

Finance

Warrior Scardino, who is to take over at Pearson, will be the first woman chief executive of one of Britain's top 100 companies.

Sport

Liverpool were in action in the European Cup Winners Cup, away to FC Sion of Switzerland in the first leg of the second round.

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Thursday October 18 1996

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Chaotic Moscow drugs trial ends in six-year sentence

British student sent to Russian labour camp

James Meek in Moscow

AN 18-year-old British woman was sentenced to six years in a Russian labour camp yesterday after being convicted of trying to smuggle £500,000 worth of cocaine through the country.

Karen Henderson, the first Briton to enter Russia's notoriously harsh penal system since the collapse of the USSR, stood impassively in a steel cage in the half-empty Moscow courtroom as an interpreter translated the verdict and sentence given by Judge Sergei Lebedev.

As the meaning of the judge's words sank in, Henderson's sister Dawn collapsed into the arms of a friend. Her parents, Patricia and Hugh, left the court without comment.

The British consul, Ian Kydd, who was present in court throughout the trial and has been helping Mr and Mrs Henderson — separated and both living in Holland — said later they were shattered by the court's decision.

Henderson, who has been kept in Moscow's fetid, overcrowded Butyrka remand prison since her arrest at Sheremetyevo airport in February, has seven days to appeal against her conviction for the possession and attempted smuggling of 4.6 kilograms of cocaine.

If an appeal fails, she is likely to serve her sentence in the Potma labour camp for foreigners in the autonomous republic of Mordovia, 250 miles south-east of Moscow.



Karen Henderson closing her eyes yesterday as the Moscow court pronounced its guilty verdict despite her denials

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID BRAUCHLI

had happened, and documents produced in evidence showed that more than 100 grammes of cocaine had disappeared between its discovery and the carrying out of chemical analysis.

Henderson, a tourism student at Utrecht university in the Netherlands, was detained by Russian customs officers with a Dutch friend, Suzanne Vorstenbosch, as they were passing through Moscow on a flight from Miami to Warsaw via Panama, Havana, Shannon and Stockholm.

Vorstenbosch pleaded guilty and was sentenced in July to six years' labour. She said she had agreed to smuggle the drugs to Warsaw in exchange for 5,000 Dutch guilders.

Most other foreigners in the Potma camp are thought to be Chinese and Vietnamese. Russian labour camps are usually sited far from towns, surrounded by a wall with watchtowers and a double barbed-wire fence. Prisoners live in large barracks and wear coarse blue overalls in summer, quilted jackets in winter.

Convicts who have lived through perestroika and the fall of communism in the camps say they are less brutal than they used to be. Gruel is

the main food. Disease, particularly tuberculosis, has reached epidemic proportions, and a number of special camps have been set up for prisoners with TB.

The collapse of central planning has shut most prison workshops, freeing many convicts from labour but depriving camps and inmates of desperately-needed income.

Gang leader jailed for murdering school head

Week Chaudhary

A TEENAGE member of a street gang which claimed to be a juvenile branch of the Triads was yesterday ordered to be detained indefinitely for the murder of headmaster Philip Lawrence.

Sentencing him to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure, the Common Sergeant of London, Judge Neil Denison, told him: "Philip Lawrence was a good man and an inspirational teacher. He dedicated and directed his life to providing a future for young people in his care. You took that life and diminished that future."

Chindamo was given a concurrent four-year sentence for wounding and conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm to a pupil at St George's Roman Catholic School, Malda Vale, west London, where Lawrence was the headmaster. Another youth aged 15 was also convicted on these counts and ordered into local authority care, awaiting reports. He will be sentenced later.

The second youth cannot be named but the judge lifted another court order which prevented Chindamo's name from being published during the four-week trial.

The Old Bailey trial heard that Chindamo was a member of the Wo-Sing-Wo gang, which aspired to be the juvenile equivalent of the Triads. Just days before the murder, he was named in court as an accomplice in the near fatal knife attack on the husband of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills.

On December 8, up to 12 youths linked to the gang, led by Chindamo, went to St George's school to attack a boy who had quarrelled with a pupil of Filipino origin.

When Lawrence attempted to protect one of his pupils, he was slapped, punched and finally stabbed by the sneering Chindamo. Lawrence died the same evening. The single stab wound, three inches deep, had penetrated his heart and lung.

Chindamo, then aged 15, later boasted of the murder to a friend in an amusement arcade.

The killing shocked the country. John Bevan, prosecuting, told the court: "A few grave crimes each year command attention beyond the norm and cause us collectively to reflect."

The case focused attention on violence in school and the safety of teachers. It led to an amnesty on knives and



Learnoo Chindamo

"The murder was a tragic example of what can happen when a young man full of bravado arms himself with a knife"

— Det-Supt Brian Edwards

changes in the law to restrict their sale.

Lawrence's widow Frances, who was present throughout the trial, refused to comment after the verdicts were announced. A police officer read a statement from her.

It said: "Mrs Lawrence feels that now her place is with her children. She is speaking with each of them on the telephone. Mrs Lawrence described her husband's murder as an earthquake which has destabilised the very foundations of their lives."

"Her primary concern is to guide them through the aftermath."

Detective Superintendent Brian Edwards, who led the murder inquiry, said outside the Old Bailey: "The murder of Philip Lawrence was a tragic example of what can so easily happen when a young man full of bravado, lacking in maturity and self-restraint, arms himself with a knife. We can only hope that the lessons are learned from this."

Margaret Ryan, who was appointed head of St George's school after the killing, said yesterday: "The trial has brought feelings to the surface that both staff and pupils felt they had dealt with and perhaps put behind them."

"But now they recognise the need to move on."

"Children and teachers lost a much loved and respected head teacher and colleague and that will never be forgotten."

Petty Team, page 5

Rangers stand by Gascoigne and provoke outrage

Stuart Millar

GLASGOW Rangers yesterday provoked fury when they refused to act on reports that Paul Gascoigne had severely battered his wife, Sheryl.

The football club will not discipline the England midfielder over allegations that he attacked his wife in

a drunken rage at the Glen Eagles Hotel, Perthshire, on Sunday, leaving her with a black eye, bruises to the face, neck and arms, her left arm in a sling and three fingers on her left hand dislocated.

Amid allegations of a cover-up, and reports that a club doctor was sent to treat Mrs Gascoigne, Rangers' vice-chairman, Donald Findlay QC, in-

sisted yesterday it was a domestic matter. "It is not really my concern. We don't own people — we employ them."

Mr Findlay said the club would stand by the player. "If anybody in this club needs help, they will get the same loyalty that they give us, whether they work on the turnstile or whether they are Paul Gascoigne."

Campaigners against do-

mestic violence immediately condemned the club. Lesley Irving, of Scottish Women's Aid, said: "They have a responsibility to make it plain that no matter how valuable a player is to them on the field, they will not tolerate what he is accused of doing."

She said the club, which has disciplined Gascoigne over his sending off during Wednesday's defeat against


Ajax, was giving a dangerous message to fans who adored the player.

Hotel guests said the couple, who married 14 weeks ago, began arguing in the restaurant, where Gascoigne had been drinking heavily. One diner said: "He got drunk very quickly and started being extremely abusive to waiters and his wife. His behaviour and language were appalling."

In 1994, the England midfielder — voted Scottish Player of the Year last season — admitted he had frequently abused Mrs Gascoigne over a two-year period.

Neither he nor his wife would comment yesterday, but a friend said they were meeting at a secret location to discuss their future.

Sport, page 16



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Gentleman spy's astonishing tale

Review

David McKie

Dispatches

LIVE Russell is a gent. He wears his white hair almost down to his collar, sports the kind of striped ties which signal membership of something fairly expensive, and says "orff", "lorst" and "substantially". He looks like England's idea of what a characteristic Englishman looks like to people in Buenos Aires. And he has an astonishing tale to tell, featuring such exotic locations as the Naval Club in BA, the Presidential Suite in the Inter-Continental Hotel, and the annual Gas Turbine Fair in Birmingham.

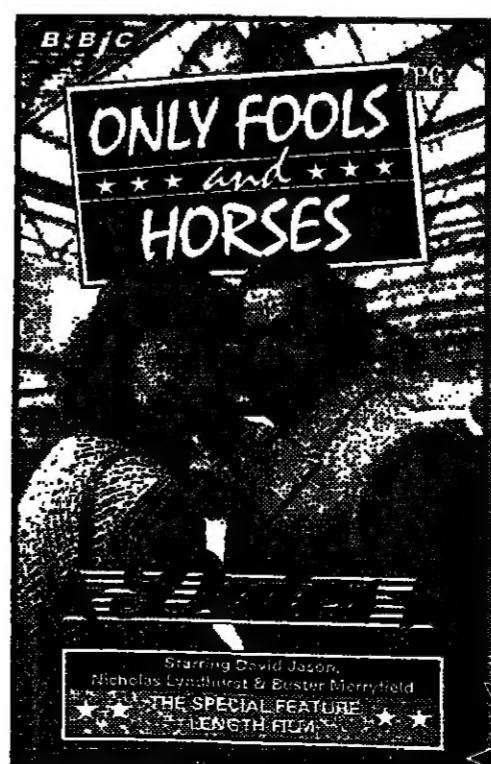
Because of the embargo imposed by the British after the Falklands war, the pride of the Argentine navy is *hars de combat*. It can't get the spares. Russell, a former naval officer turned businessman, is approached by Argentine agents to help them put that right. What these saps don't know is that he's been recruited by British intelligence. Soon Rolls Royce parts are being astutely copied in a workshop close to the Catskill mountains. The embargo is thus being flouted, as Russell tells his security minders. Do they promptly try to stop it, as government policy would seem to require? They do not. They are far too pleased with the intelligence Russell is feeding them about Argentine military preparedness. MIS took heavy stick, remember, for its failure to predict the Falklands invasion. It doesn't intend to be caught again — even if that means enhancing

the firepower of our former enemy.

What drove Russell to blurt all this out to Martyn Gregory on the first in the new series of Channel 4's *Dispatches* last night? Partly outrage at all this duplicity: "In my view," he says, "the present government has... betrayed the men and women who sailed from here to die and be wounded in the Falklands war." But partly resentment at the way he's been treated by "Six," which ran him into trouble by circulating a list of elusive parts to all and sundry, and then when he ran into trouble dumped him. There are parallels here, he suggests, with the case of Paul Henderson of Matrix Churchill whom the customs authorities tried to get for offences well known to the security forces, for whom he too was working: see the Scott Report, passim.

But MIS is not alone in the dock. According to Robin Robison (said to be formerly of the Joint Intelligence Committee, but otherwise inadequately explained) ministers would not have gone unconsulted on matters of such importance. That may not include Malcolm Rifkind (seen berating John Smith for the wickedness of a Labour government in selling arms to the Argentine) but it could have involved foreign secretaries Howe, Hurd and Major, all of whom, one is not surprised to discover, declined to talk to *Dispatches*. To an untutored eye, it looked last night as if the Official Secrets Act was being broken all over the place. But will Russell or Robison be arraigned? Or asked to testify before more rigorous scrutineers? Probably not. More trouble than it's worth to have these things turned over in public, old boy.

"She's not a bird, Rodney. She's an actress"



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THE ADOPTION DILEMMA

CASE HISTORIES



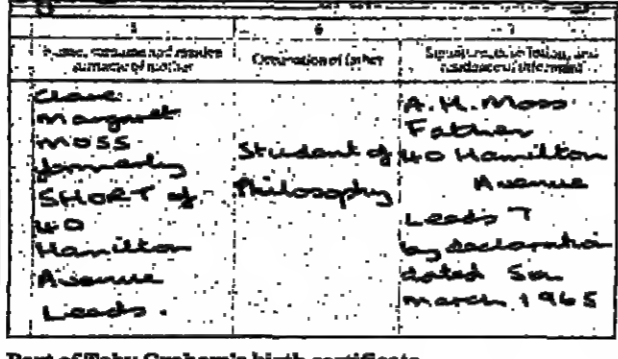
The Labour MP Clare Short and her son Toby Graham yesterday, celebrating their reunion 31 years after she gave him up for adoption

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

Short finds a new model role

Sarah Boseley on how the Labour MP has put heart into a sensitive matter

CLARE Short, euphoric at rediscovering her son, was hailed by adoption agencies yesterday as a wonderful role model for the many women from the 1960s and early 70s who felt forced to give up their babies and were made to bury their distress in guilt and shame. Yesterday Ms Short, aged 50, and Toby Graham, the son she gave up for adoption when she was a penniless student 31 years ago, appeared in public together, united in unmistakable joy as they held on to each other and laughed and smiled. "I'm very happy it's wonderful," said the mother. "I'm just incredibly happy," said the son.



Part of Toby Graham's birth certificate

for Overseas Development for her frank and open acknowledgment of the painful episode in her past that she has so long regretted. Giving up her child, she has said, "was terrible, and it's been terrible ever since... the big thing at the centre of my life was painful." Lee Chambers of BAAF called Ms Short "a positive role model", adding: "Often these women feel ashamed and guilty. We are delighted that she has been so up front

and open about it. Women were made to feel filthy and sinful and encouraged not to talk about it." Adoptions peaked in 1968 at 24,861, some 12,000 of which were children given up by single mothers. Last year only 4,646 children were adopted, roughly half by step-parents. Philip Whitehead, Labour MEP for Staffordshire East and Derby, who was one of the sponsors of the 1975 Bill that allowed adopted children access to their birth documents, was adopted himself and successfully traced his mother when he was 30. In the search for part of the jigsaw of identity — one's genetic parent — it was important not to neglect the parent who had brought the adopted child up, he said yesterday. Credit for his upbringing had been given by both Ms Short and Mr Graham to his adoptive parents. "The messages coming out of the whole Clare Short business are all enormously life-enhancing for all sides of the triangle," he added. Mr Graham, a solicitor, found his natural mother four weeks ago. He began his search about a year ago, spurred on by becoming a father himself. The 1975 law has made it easier for adopted children to find their parents than the other way round. While some adoption agencies will approach an adopted child on behalf of the natural parent, to see if they would like information or even contact, many will not. Ms Short had taken the avenue open to all natural

parents and filed her details with the Adoption Contact Register, held since 1991 by the Office for National Statistics. Details of natural relatives — siblings or grandparents as well as mothers and fathers — who register will be handed over if the adopted child asks for them. Like most adopted children, however, the Labour MP's son had approached the adoption agency for information about his mother, rather than the register. Now, he said in an interview in the Independent newspaper, "I know who I am, where I came from, what my roots are and that bit of my personality that was a vacuum is now filled." His adoptive family had been "one nation Tories", but, "I was moving towards Labour before I met Clare."

Christine Collins, a Manchester mother who traced the daughter who was taken from her at birth when she was 16, said that during the initial weeks or months "you are on cloud nine, feeling a very deep contentment and very happy... "We did have quite a big argument at one point. We ended up not speaking to each other for a couple of months. Then we got back together and were able to laugh about it. It meant we could be normal and fall out and yet always be there for each other." Sometimes, when the euphoria dies down, the relationship does not work out, but professionals say that adopted children rarely regret making contact. Leader comment, page 8

'It isn't all roses. She still blames me for a lot of the problems she has had'



Helen Ishiguro... 'we don't speak much'

It was October last year when Helen Ishiguro found her daughter, Donna, who was born in 1957 as her father disappeared with the last of the American GIs leaving Britain. Donna was adopted by a wealthy family who promised all the things her waitress mother could not give — and it took Helen Ishiguro decades of searching to find her again. Finally, the International Social Service tracing agency called to say they had found her. "It isn't all roses," says Helen Ishiguro. "She has had a difficult life and she is still angry at me for giving her up. It is rosy in the beginning and maybe it won't happen to Clare Short and her son, but in my case the questions did come with the anger — why did I give her up?" "It's also nice for Clare Short because she can be proud of her mother, the MP, and she can be proud of

her son, the solicitor. It was different for us. I'm on welfare and she's delivering pizzas, so there is a bit of inferiority there. It's hard for it all to be rosy when she's scratching for pennies and bringing up three children." Helen Ishiguro has not seen or spoken to her daughter for almost a year. "I had a card from her yesterday but we don't speak much. She still blames me for a lot of problems she has had in her life. The children keep in contact more than their mother does." Maggie O'Kane

'I was happy for Clare Short. I just wish that my child was looking for me'



Doreen Devonshire... 'I just want to know she is alive'

Doreen Devonshire's last sight of her daughter was as a six-week-old baby in a summer floral dress. The year was 1969 and they said goodbye in a mother and baby home in Putney, south London. In the last two years she has been taking legal action to try to force Westminster council to write to her daughter, now aged 37, telling her that her mother wishes to make contact. "I just want to know that she is alive and for her to know that if she wants me she can contact me," says Mrs Devonshire. She was 25 and living at home with her parents when her baby was conceived. She gave birth in a mother-and-baby home. "That's just what you did in the fifties and sixties. There was no unmarried mothers' allowance. Everyone said it was the best thing for the baby and I was selfish to try to keep her." In 1979, Mrs Devonshire learned that her daughter

was healthy and artistic, but she accepted the adoptive parents' wishes that Paula should not be told her birth mother had tried to make contact. Fifteen years later Mrs Devonshire tried again for a reconciliation but was told that the policy of Westminster council, which held her daughter's records, was to forbid contact from the birth mother. "I watched Clare Short on the news last night and I was happy for her. I just wish that my child was looking for me," she said yesterday. Maggie O'Kane

MP slated for Dunblane remarks

Tory shooting enthusiast attacks 'hysterical' demand for total ban

Even MacAskill and Rebecca Smithers

TORY MP John Carlisle, who was heavily criticised last night after branding Dunblane parents as "hysterical" for demanding a total ban on handguns. His outburst came as the Government resisted pressure from the Opposition and some Tories to hold a free vote on a total ban. Mr Carlisle, MP for Luton North, who lists shooting among his hobbies, said that some of the parents of Dunblane had almost taken themselves out of the gun debate. "They have become far too emotional, far too hysterical, on what is a very, very important national issue." Opposition

MPs reacted with a genuine sense of outrage at Mr Carlisle's remarks. The shadow Scottish secretary, George Robertson, said: "These comments are offensive, bordering on the indecent. I hope he will withdraw his remarks, if only for the sake of his reputation." "The Government will include in the Queen's Speech next week a bill to introduce a ban on the vast majority of handguns, hoping to have the legislation on the statute book by Christmas. But the Opposition hopes it can force the Government into accepting a total ban, and is pressing for a free vote in the hope that it can attract enough Tory MPs. Downing Street insisted yesterday it will resist a free vote. Although the Liberal

Democrats and the Scottish Nationalist support free vote, the Ulster Unionists have hinted they are opposed to a total ban on handguns. Labour cannot even be sure of total support among its own ranks. Frank Cook, the Labour MP for Stockton North, and the pistol captain of the Palace of Westminster rifle club, said yesterday he had to be convinced of the logic of even a partial ban. "The firearms legislation after the Hungerford massacre had been a mess from start to finish, he said, adding: "We are in danger of making an even bigger mess here." Without the support of the Ulster Unionists, Labour would find it hard to defeat the Government. It depends on how many Tory MPs are either soft on the issue or are furthered by public opinion. In a further development, a leading peer predicted that the Government could face

"difficulties" in the Lords from peers unhappy with even its partial ban. Lord Wyatt, a cross-bencher, said: "There are a great deal of people in the Lords who are experienced in guns and all kinds of weapons. Some will say that the laws are nonsensical. All laws which are directed at one incident usually turn out to be bad." Labour is pressing to hold the Barnsley East by-election as soon as possible — ideally before Christmas — in case the vote is needed on the guns issue. The party is expected to retain the seat — its second safest — which was held by Terry Pritchett with a majority of 24,777 until his death from cancer last Friday. His funeral was held yesterday. Leader comment and letters, page 8

Russia plunged into crisis after Yeltsin dismisses Lebed

continued from page 1

fallen out with Gen Lebed over the signing of a peace accord which the Russian armed forces regarded as a humiliating defeat, claimed to have intelligence reports that 1,500 armed Chechens were ready to support a coup bid. He drafted in interior ministry troops to Moscow, cancelled all police leave and put Russia on a security alert. "Trying to calm down the

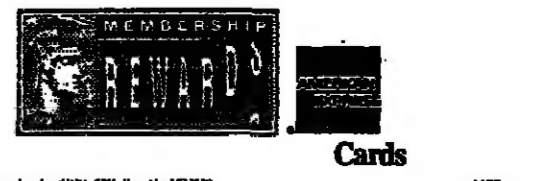
crisis, Mr Chernomyrdin summoned his defence chiefs to an early morning meeting, and later appeared on television to quash Gen Kulikov's claims that Gen Lebed was plotting a coup. A row also boiled over Gen Lebed's claim that 30 security service generals were about to be sacked. Mr Chernomyrdin said he was "far from thinking about coups and mutinies". But, referring to Gen Lebed, he at-

tacked the "irresponsibility, incompetence, a home-grown Napoleon complex, that are clearly brimming over, especially lately". However, he did partially support the interior ministers claims that Gen Lebed had been trying to set up a "Russian Legion", by saying that some of the documents presented to the meeting by Gen Kulikov "did correspond to reality".

Gen Lebed, who has threatened to sue Gen Kulikov, said the claims were nonsense. He confirmed that he had sent documents to the interior and defence ministries proposing the creation of special brigades of 3,000 soldiers in each region. But that he said was only a draft proposal, and he had told both parliamentary deputies and the president of the plan.

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Wives of rock stars are forced to confront the fact that they are married to two different people, the Performer and the Private Person. Victoria Clarke on living with Shane MacGowan

Friday Review page 12

ing leader... for... pool head... not a money actress... is love on the cards for Del Boy... £12.99 OUT NOW ON VIDEO... FIRST TIME EVER ON VIDEO

Doctors back call for immediate cash boost of £200 million as wards close and health authorities cancel non-emergency operations

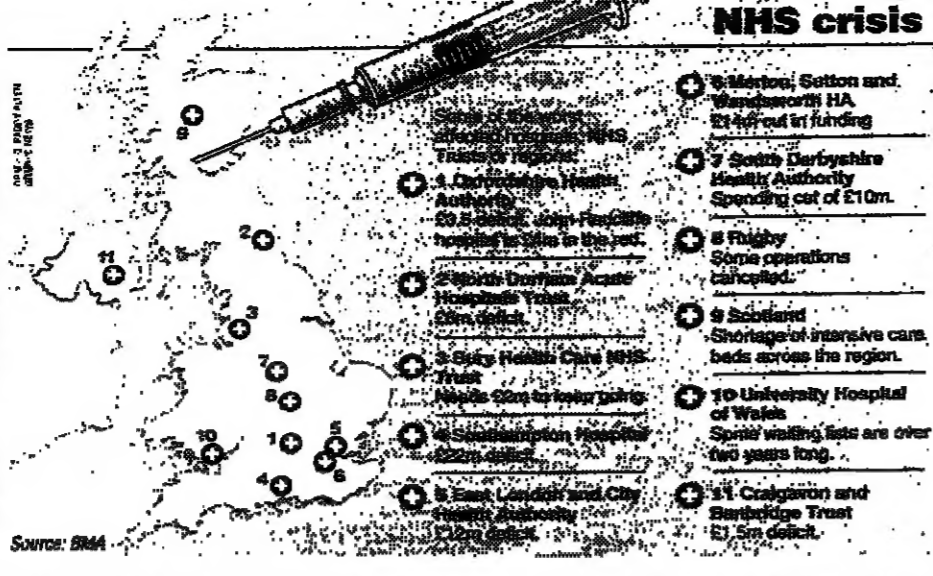
NHS 'faces worst cash shortage in its history'

Chris Mihill
Medical Correspondent

THE health service is facing its worst financial crisis for 10 years, and possibly its worst ever, the British Medical Association warned yesterday.

The BMA said wards were closing, waiting lists lengthening and in some districts all "cold surgery" — elective operations such as hip replacements — had been cancelled, not just for this financial year but for next year as well.

Many hospitals would be operating an "emergency only" policy this winter, and treatment increasingly relied on whether fundholding GPs or health authorities had any money left, rather than how ill the patient was.



The BMA denied it was being alarmist but said the crisis facing many trusts and health authorities was as severe as, if not worse than, that in 1987-89 which prompted Lady Thatcher to bring in the health changes.

The BMA produced a list of some 30 "hotspots" around the country, and pointed out that this had been compiled by just 100 of its members in a matter of days.

"We are facing the worst winter in 10 years, and possibly the worst ever," said James Johnson, head of the BMA's consultants' committee.

Mr Johnson told a press conference at the BMA's headquarters in London that the health service was paying the price of years of under-funding. He endorsed a call made yesterday by the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts which said the NHS needed an immediate injection of some £200 million to cover this financial year, and at least 3 per cent above inflation for next year.

"There's not enough money in the system — that is the basic problem. It is leading all over the country to wards being mothballed, operating theatres being mothballed and even scarce resources like intensive care beds being closed because there is no money to staff them."

Mr Johnson said a decision had been made at a high political level to let waiting lists for cold surgery increase, otherwise there would be no beds this winter for emergency cases.

Already some health authorities were planning an emergency-only service for the next financial year. Many districts were refusing to provide some expensive diagnostic tests, or expensive drugs, such as interferon for people with multiple sclerosis.

"Elective surgery patients are no longer being treated on the basis of clinical need but on the basis of whether the purchaser has any money left."

Health in question: Chris Mihill on how efficiency has been gained at a cost — and demand continues to grow

Is it true that the NHS is better funded than ever before?

Yes. The service received £34.7 billion for the current financial year, an increase of 74 per cent since 1979.

So why is the NHS in crisis again?

The money is not enough to keep up with the increasing number of elderly people and advances in new technology. There is also an increased expectation among patients, partly fuelled by the Patient's Charter, that all illness can be promptly treated.

The average cost of a single episode of geriatric care is £2,700, compared with £1,000 for other specialties. Some modern drugs can cost £10,000 a year. Doctors' pay settlements above inflation, and the need to find money to reduce the hours of junior doctors, have added to financial pressures. Most health authorities were given just 1

per cent for growth money this year to cope with increased demands.

How does the new system of purchasers and providers work?

Health authorities act as "purchasers", assessing the needs of their local populations and buying services through "providers" who are mainly the trust hospitals but can also be private companies, community or charity bodies. Fundholding GPs, who have their own budgets, can buy care directly from the providers.

Does that division play a part in the crisis?

Yes. Ironically the scheme was meant to allow "money to follow patients" but the reverse happens. Health authorities make block contracts, say 200 hip replacements a year, with their local hospital. If there is a rush of patients, all the contract money

may be spent in months, meaning no more patients can be treated.

This can result in local people being refused service while the hospital touts for business from neighbouring or even far-flung districts or from fundholding GPs. It means patients who are less ill can leapfrog the queues.

Is the new system more efficient in treating patients?

Yes, but at a cost. Nearly 5 per cent more patients were treated from April to June this year than in the corresponding period the previous year. But hospital stays are becoming shorter and shorter as patients are pushed through more quickly.

In addition, all hospitals must make "efficiency savings" of 3 per cent each year, in effect being asked to do the same or more work for less money. Most have no more fat to cut, and can only make such savings by pushing patients through even faster, jeopardising safety.

Why does increased efficiency in the NHS seem to make things worse?

Highly efficient hospitals, with overheads cut to the bone, find themselves on a

treadmill of increasing patient numbers but decreasing income because of the annual 3 per cent efficiency cuts.

Will patients be turned away from hospitals?

Emergency cases will always be seen, but patients for "cold" surgery will increasingly have to wait. It means patients suffer longer, need more time off work, and are at a more advanced stage of illness when they have their operation, so less likely to do well.

What needs to be done to avert a crisis?

In the short term, the BMA and the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts agree that £200 million needs to be injected this financial year to keep the service going. Next year funding needs to be at least 3 per cent above inflation, instead of the predicted 1 per cent, to pay for expanding numbers.

Longer term, the proportion of GDP spent on the health service should be increased. Competition between hospitals, which sees them all trying to maintain every service in order not to lose contracts, should be replaced by co-operation.



An exploratory operation at Guy's Hospital, London. Such procedures are increasingly threatened as health authorities are forced to cut spending. PHOTOGRAPH: ROBIN LAURANCE

Labour plan to beat Tory 'bias' in trusts

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

ACCUSATIONS flew over the politicisation of the NHS yesterday after Labour promised to appoint a local authority "representative" to the board of every health authority and trust.

Chris Smith, shadow health secretary, said Labour would also be investigating ways of ensuring the boards better reflected their local communities and had "proper representation of staff".

The Tory Party seized on his comments as proof that Labour intends to put councillors and trade union leaders in control of the NHS. A spokesman for Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell said: "This is what is meant by stake-holding: giving favour of advancement to Labour's councillors and its trade union paymasters."

Mr Smith, however, presented his plans as a way of countering Tory bias among non-executive members of health authority and trust boards.

"I want to resist the temptation simply to get rid of all the Tory placemen and placewomen and replace them with Labour placemen and placewomen," he said. His announcement came at the annual social services conference in Edinburgh, in which he said he was "deeply worried" about the unrepresentative nature of health authorities and trusts.

Chris Vellenoweth, of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said there would be practical problems in trying to match the 108 health authorities in England and Wales, with the 460 trusts, with the 180 social services authorities being created by the new unitary structure.

Mr Smith, whose speech was well received by the 900 delegates, said a Labour government would make an "early" move to set up a regulatory body for social services. He made clear for the first time that the body would extend to all social care staff, not just qualified social workers.

Other commitments by Mr Smith included creation of an independent registration and inspection system for care homes and for agencies providing care in people's own homes, and reform of adoption laws if the Government falls to include its planned health bills in the forthcoming Queen's Speech.

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New doubts arise in the aftermath of Dunblane as opposing factions prepare for battle

The small but deadly .22 guns that will stay legal

Tory rebels aim for total ban

Owen Bowcott reports on the growing concern that new curbs on firearms do not go far enough

SENATOR Robert Kennedy was assassinated by the pro-Palestinian gunman, Sirhan Sirhan, in 1968 with the type of .22 calibre pistol which will remain legal under the Government's post-Dunblane restrictions.

A similar size firearm was used by John Hinckley when he loosed off a barrage of shots wounding President Reagan and his press secretary before being overpowered by secret service bodyguards in 1981.

Smaller and less powerful than large-bore handguns, .22 pistols have nevertheless been the chosen weapon of a number of hitmen and criminals. They are easier to hide and can be just as lethal at close range.

As the ramifications of the Government's ban sank in yesterday, there was growing concern among gun-control groups that many small-calibre, semi-automatics would be left in circulation.

Despite initial reports that only single shot .22s would be permitted under the new restrictions, the Home Office yesterday confirmed that small calibre revolvers and self-loading pistols would remain legal.



Robert Kennedy and Ronald Reagan... both attacked with .22 weapons. Kennedy was killed and Reagan wounded



Robert Kennedy and Ronald Reagan... both attacked with .22 weapons. Kennedy was killed and Reagan wounded

Some revolvers can hold up to 12 rounds, while certain semi-automatic pistols have magazine clips carrying up to 10 shots. Lord Cullen, in his report, specifically expressed fears about the speed with which a .22 semi-automatic could be fired.

"The problem with small guns is they are kept for self-defence. But they are too small to appear a threat. So there's more chance of having to use them."

In the United States, such small pistols are popular among women and some men. Less bulky and cheaper than a .44 Magnum or a 9mm weapon, they can easily be concealed in a handbag or a trouser pocket.

Even the gun lobby admits that such firearms are for more than just sport. "Almost

are not big enough to appear a threat. So there's more chance of having to use them."

At the only manufacturer of single-shot .22 pistols in Britain, May of London (Gunmakers) Ltd, said yesterday they were despondent. Even though his prestige target weapons remain legal, Ron May fears the restrictions on storage will eventually drive his firm out of business. "I think we may survive for some time but most gun clubs are just ranges; they don't have sophisticated armouries. There will be suicides among those whose livelihoods depended on this sport."

One Northern Ireland surgeon who has had to treat hundreds of gunshot victims suggested it would have been better to ban all semi-automatics and self-loading pistols rather than larger calibre weapons.

"If Thomas Hamilton had had a semi-automatic .22, he might have caused almost as much carnage," said Dr Laurence Rocke, a consultant at Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital. "Any firearm is deadly. A semi-automatic .22 isn't much less dangerous than than a .38 weapon, but I didn't even expect the Government to go as far as it has done. If people are now saying they should ban all these weapons because they are dangerous, then perhaps they should ban shotguns too!"

Ireland is the only European country where all handguns are banned. Dublin requested that they be handed in at the height of the Troubles in 1973. They were never returned to their owners.

Handgun revolt is creating another Tory split, reports Alan Travis

THE growing band of rebel Tory MPs who threaten to defy the Government's line on a limited ban on handguns cuts right across the party's ideological spectrum.

The group of four MPs who have so far declared their support for a complete handgun ban share only the fact that they sit for London suburban constituencies.

The former Tory cabinet minister, David Mellor, and Hugh Dykes and Robert Hughes, who both hold Harrow seats, may all broadly be described as being on the liberal wing of the Conservative Party. But the latest recruit to their cause, Terry Dicks, the MP for Hayes and Harlington, is firmly from the right.

Mr Dicks said yesterday most people would not be satisfied with anything less than a ban on all 200,000 handguns in Britain and he would not vote to leave guns in the hands of "half a dozen people who want to play cowboys and Indians at the Olympics".

Mr Hughes, MP for Harrow West, made his commitment to a total ban when he became a patron of the Gun Control Network earlier this year.

Labour claim there are another 30 rebels who might join them in voting to ban .22 calibre handguns. Even more worrying for Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is the potential rebellion of

those Conservatives. In the Commons and in the Lords, who believe the 30 per cent ban will mean the end of the "noble sport of shooting". The traditional pool of "hunting, shooting, fishing" Tories is now much smaller was.

Hector Monro and even the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, are among this group.

Not all would push their criticisms as far as voting against the Government.

Typical is Sir Henry Bellingham who argued yesterday that many farmers, wildfowling and gamekeepers now fear for their sport.

Others are more interested in target shooting itself, especially those with an army background, such as Andrew Robathan, the MP for Nigel Lawson's old seat of Blaby, who was a Coldstream Guards officer and David Tredinnick, MP for Bosworth, who served in the Grenadier Guards.

And then there are those who are likely to reflect the views of the shooting organisations, such as Michael Collins, the MP for Romsey, and vice-chairman of the British Field Sports Society.

Peter Atkinson, MP for Hexham, was director of public affairs for the British Field Sports Society until 1992.

"The Government will also face a rough ride in the Lords. Lord Wyatt made warning noises yesterday and found support from the cross-bencher Lord Monson, who declared that Mr Howard was being "extremely draconian" and was trying "to deprive 150,000 law abiding and respectable citizens of their cherished pistols."

Handwritten signature: J.P. 10/13/96

MURDER OF A HEADMASTER: Vivek Chaudhary on gang culture of violence which claimed life of Philip Lawrence



Philip Lawrence... stabbed trying to protect pupil



Learco Chindamo... had reputation as street fighter. After the killing he boasted in amusement arcade about his crime



Philip Lawrence's widow Frances leaving the Old Bailey

School feud led to crazy killing

A PETTY feud between two schoolboys triggered the events that ended in the senseless killing of headmaster Philip Lawrence as his pupils streamed out of St George's Roman Catholic school in Maida Vale, west London, at the end of a school day last December.

changed heated words with a fellow St George's pupil, two years younger than him, in the days leading up to the killing. There had been pushing and shoving between the two boys, leading to a fight which was broken up by teachers.

which took its name from an established Triad gang. He, in turn, enlisted the help of Learco Chindamo, who had a fearsome reputation as a street fighter and troublemaker and was a member of the Wo-Sing-Wo (WSW) another street gang made up mainly of Oriental youths, which also took its name from a Triad gang.

usual outside the gates to ensure his pupils set off safely for home. He was laughing and chatting. The 15-year-old Filipino youth from St George's approached the 13-year-old boy he had been quarrelling with outside the main entrance and offered to take him around the corner for a "one-on-one" fight.

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Mixing myth with menace as street youths ape their fierce Triad elders

AROUND the back streets of King's Cross station, the names Triad or Wo-Sing-Wo (WSW) are well-known to many of the loitering youngsters, often playing truant from school.

children. Police are quick to reject suggestions of organised Triad recruitment in schools although last year officers in London started an inquiry into such claims. The schoolboy WSW of Chindamo draws most of its recruits from young Orientals living in north and west London.

Monday-Thursday 8am-8pm Friday 8am-9pm Saturday 8am-8pm Sunday 10am-4pm

Security

Safety drive may be hit by government cash hitch

CONTRACTORS will over the next few weeks install closed-circuit TV cameras and a video entry system at St George's Roman Catholic school in Maida Vale, as part of a programme by Westminster city council to strengthen security in its secondary schools.

22 recommendations in May, including extra powers for police to stop and search and penalties for carrying knives on school premises which came into force last month. The group warned that such measures could never be sufficient to provide total protection because - as Lord Cullen repeated on Wednesday in his Dunblane report - schools which want to welcome pupils and parents cannot be turned into fortresses.

Banks deny diverting assets of Holocaust victims

Jewish funds 'went to Swiss citizens'

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

SWISS bankers yesterday angrily denied charges from the United States that they had "blatantly benefited from the Holocaust" by diverting money plundered from murdered Jews to citizens of Switzerland.

The denial came after a fusillade of new charges from the powerful Senate banking committee which is investigating worldwide allegations that the banks hoarded gold and other assets stolen from Jewish victims of the Nazis. The controversy has already led to pressure on Switzerland by campaigners in the US, Israel and Britain.

The committee chairman, Republican senator Alfonse D'Amato, said new documents showed Switzerland had signed secret post-war deals to funnel Jewish money to Swiss citizens.

Mr D'Amato charged that the Swiss agreed a 1949 pact with Poland to compensate Swiss citizens for property confiscated by the communist regime — by supplying them with the assets of murdered Polish Jews. Similar deals were later agreed with Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the senator claimed.

"We had agreements with all countries after the war,

none of those is secret," a Swiss foreign ministry spokesman, Jean-Philippe Tissieres, insisted yesterday. "Our archives are open and none is related to the subject Mr D'Amato was speaking about."

In an emotional hearing in New York, Holocaust survivors wept as they told how Zurich banks had blocked their efforts to recover inheritances. The bankers stonewalled requests to trace old accounts and even demanded death certificates for people who had been killed in Nazi camps, the witnesses said.

Mr D'Amato said the evidence pointed to a pattern of delay, deceit and effective theft by the banks. He accused the Swiss of deliberate stalling by establishing a commission which would take five years to issue a final report on links to the Nazis.

Yesterday Swiss officials said they needed more time to investigate the fresh charges. But they defended their record, insisting they wanted to return wartime assets to their rightful owners.

Sylvia Matile, a spokeswoman for the Swiss Bankers Association, said an ombudsman was now in place to help almost 1,000 claimants track down family accounts, and that the demand for death certificates had been dropped. She also pointed to an independent panel of bankers and

Jewish representatives which will investigate whether the Swiss engaged in serious obstruction.

Yesterday's developments came as the British Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, reassured the New York-based World Jewish Congress that Britain and the US were investigating a proposal to give an estimated six tonnes of gold seized from the Nazis to Holocaust survivors. The gold is thought to be worth \$75 million.

But Mr D'Amato is unlikely to be placated easily. With a tough re-election battle for his New York seat expected in 1998, he is keen to stick with an issue that has captured the imagination of US Jews — a key group in New York politics.

In the latest hearing he said new documents showed that the depth of Swiss-Nazi collaboration was greater than previously thought. He said the Germans invested up to \$816 million in Swiss enterprises and sold the Swiss hundreds of millions of dollars of stolen gold.

Mr D'Amato said the Swiss then cheated the Allies by claiming they held only \$250 million in Nazi assets, and passing on only half that sum in compensation.

He also charged that the Swiss handed over only \$60 million of looted gold, a fraction of the real haul.



French day of protest fails to bring Paris to a halt

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

FRENCH trade union leaders yesterday called on public sector workers to step up stoppages this winter. But a day of demonstrations proved smaller than expected, as only about 30 per cent of workers went on strike against government austerity measures.

Airports, schools and rail services were worst hit by yesterday's strike call to the country's 5 million civil servants. But there was little disruption to the Metro in Paris or to national postal services.

More than 50,000 civil servants, augmented by electricity, gas, telecommunications and hospital workers, marched through Paris under the banner: "Work, the public sector and spending power".

Up to 30,000 marchers gathered in cities including Strasbourg and Toulouse. Police said up to 25,000 demonstrated in the city of

Bordeaux, where Alain Juppé, the prime minister, is mayor.

Those who marched through drizzle in Paris were largely gloomy about the prospects of a work-led winter of discontent to match the near-general strike which hit France last November and December.

'There is not the dynamic we saw last year. People are resigned to job cuts'

An opinion poll for the daily *Le Parisien* newspaper showed 64 per cent of citizens sympathised with the strike.

Seven trade unions of all political complexions had called the strike and Louis Vianet, secretary general of the Communist-led OGT trade union movement,

called on public servants to create a "movement even stronger than last year's, with more convergence between public and private sector workers".

But on the streets, enthusiasm was muted. Florence Touré, a 45-year-old nurse from a hospital in Greater Paris, said: "There is not the dynamic that we saw last year. People are resigned to job cuts."

Hubert Lornet, a maintenance worker with Paris city council, said: "There are 45,000 employees at the town hall but only 350 people have turned up for the demo. People are scared of losing their jobs and gloomy about the state of France. But they seem more ready to believe that the answer lies with the National Front than with a workers' movement."

The strikes and demonstrations reflect widespread disenchantment with President Jacques Chirac, who promised when he was elected in May 1995 to cut unemployment.



Public sector workers use posters and masks to protest in Paris yesterday against the government's austerity measures. PHOTOGRAPHS: AEROME DELAY, FRANCOIS MORI

Lithuania swings right

Jon Herley in Helsinki

LITHUANIA goes to the polls this weekend in a general election which appears likely to buck the trend it set four years ago when it became the first East European state to vote former communists back into power.

Reeling from the economic collapse which followed independence, Lithuanians voted overwhelmingly in 1992 for the former communists of the Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party (LDLP).

But with the former communists mired by corruption scandals and seemingly unable to improve the lot of most people, the last opinion poll before Sunday's election showed the rightwing Homeland Union — headed by Vy-

sitas Landsbergis, the country's independence hero and first post-communist president — with a four-point lead over the LDLP.

Analysts expect the Homeland Union and its rightwing allies, the Christian Democrats, to win more than a quarter of the votes — more than twice as many as the LDLP — and form the next government, possibly in coalition with the nationalist Centre Union.

"A lot of people, especially farmers, the poor and the pensioners, pinned a lot of hope on the LDLP, and they have been very disappointed," said Arturas Racas, a political commentator with the leading Lithuanian daily, *Lietuvos Rytas*.

"They're more than ready to give Landsbergis and his

ideas another chance," Mr Landsbergis, a mid-mannered music professor who led Lithuania's secession from the Soviet Union in 1991, is still outspokenly anti-Russian. Analysts fear his rhetoric could lead to tense relations with Moscow.

If his party does well, he is widely expected to become Speaker of parliament and prepare for a presidential campaign in 1998, making way for his close friend, the Homeland Union leader Gediminas Vagnorius, to become the next prime minister.

Although a strict austerity programme has reduced inflation, the official average monthly wage is only €110: a United Nations put real incomes at about 35 per cent less. Pensioners are expected to get by on €30 a month.

News in brief

Protesters jam Belgian traffic

Tens of thousands of demonstrators and strikers took to the streets throughout Belgium for the fourth day yesterday, demanding an overhaul of the judicial system, which is widely seen as incompetent and corrupt.

Marches on courthouses and sit-ins at intersections created long traffic jams. — AP.

Japan to rescue

Japan, the world's largest aid donor to developing nations, is directing more assistance to central Asia, one of the most promising areas in the region, government officials say. — Reuters.

'Kidnap' family

A man, identified as Rainer K, his wife and their 26-year-old son will be charged with kidnapping Jakob Fiszmann, a Frankfurt millionaire the woman worked for, who is still missing. German officials said yesterday. — AP.

Children 'for sale'

A leading Nigerian human rights group, the Constitutional Rights Project, yesterday claimed a frightening surge in the sale of children into bonded labour, prostitution and domestic slavery. — Reuters.

Cuba awaits Lili

Cuba was braced yesterday for the arrival of Hurricane Lili as thousands of people were evacuated from their homes in Havana. — Reuters.

Pageant stays put

Miss World organisers said yesterday they would not move the contest from the southern Indian city of Bangalore, despite protests by women and political activists. A move to Goa had been rumoured. — Reuters.

Italy picks Kohl's brains on single currency push

Rome, following Spain's lead, is hoping to win easier entry conditions for monetary union. Ian Traynor reports from Bonn

ITALY'S prime minister,

Romano Prodi, arrived in Bonn last night, hot on the heels of his Spanish counterpart, to seek help from Chancellor Helmut Kohl in his drive to meet the criteria for the single European currency.

He also sought German backing, despite hostility from France, for Italy to rejoin the exchange rate mechanism. It is widely believed that Italy will not qualify for European monetary union (EMU) at the beginning of 1999.

Last night's talks followed a quick visit to Germany on Tuesday by the Spanish prime minister, José María Aznar, who discussed similar issues with Mr Kohl.

They came a day after the European Commission issued recommendations for a single currency "stability pact" which relaxes the medium-term fiscal rigour demanded by Germany's central bank.

The Italian and Spanish visits to Bonn confirmed that the countdown to the single currency has begun. Budget performance next year will decide who will be allowed to join the single currency club.

Germany, France, Italy and Spain are making swingeing spending cuts and austerity

drives to meet the single currency criteria, but it is unlikely that Spain or Italy will pass the test next year.

It is also possible that Germany and France will not qualify.

Political expediency may mean that the criteria have to be effectively relaxed, a move that would be fiercely resisted by the Bundesbank.

Projections this week by Deutsche Bank Research suggest that next year none of the four countries will meet the criteria laid down in the Maastricht treaty.

Italy's state debt is projected to double the EMU threshold and its budget deficit 40 per cent above it.

Spain would also fail. The report says: "It must be decided politically whether Spain can join the first group of EMU countries."

French hopes of qualifying rest on a one-off budget windfall of almost €3 billion from France Telecom.

Such creative accounting has led Italy and Spain to believe that the rules can be bent for them too, much to the annoyance of the Bundesbank, which is an advocate of stringent fiscal probity.

"Single-year results alone, especially when produced by one-off effects, are not enough," the Bundesbank chief, Hans Tietmeyer, said last weekend in a clear reference to the French ruse.

"I am sceptical about certain beauty treatments which seem to serve solely to

achieve a cosmetic balance on the key day."

The Bundesbank is not keen either on the European Commission's EMU stability pact, which is unclear on when excessive deficits can be allowed.

The pact also makes punishment for budgetary sinners a political decision rather than one determined by economic criteria.

The pact, a German idea, is aimed at selling the single currency to a sceptical German public by assuring it that the euro will be as strong as the mark.

But Theo Walgal, the German finance minister who initiated the proposals, is stuck between the public and Bundesbank at home, and key EU partners who want a more flexible approach.

He and Mr Tietmeyer clashed on the pact at recent meetings in Washington.

"There can be no grounds for doubts that the currency union will establish and consolidate a culture of stability," Mr Tietmeyer said last weekend. "Otherwise we in the Bundesbank cannot conceive of a currency union."

But Germany's drive to meet the criteria was buffeted this week when a plan to freeze child benefit from next year was dropped. It has also been disclosed that tax revenues and privatisation returns will yield less next year than initially estimated.

The analysts Deutsche Morgan Grenfell estimate that Mr Kohl's scheme to cut spending by DM 70 billion may deliver only half that amount.

The German government is now considering whether to increase the tax on petrol to plug some of the EMU gap.

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Sacking gives Kremlin's black sheep the freedom to fight for power

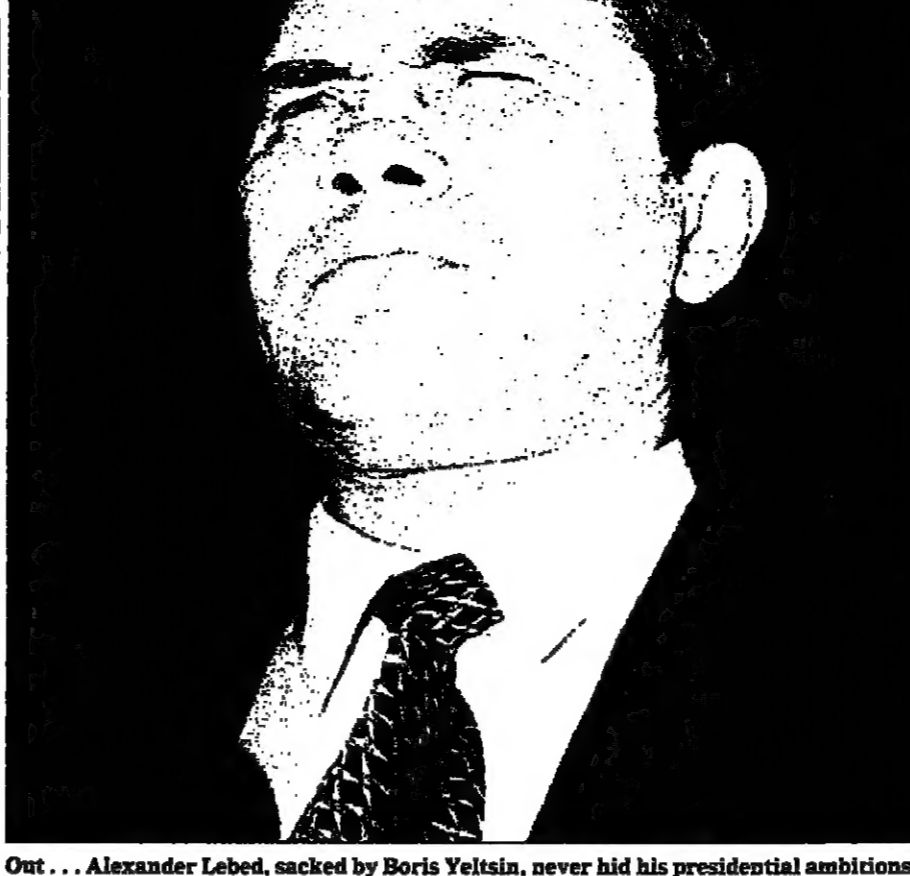
Lebed hits back at Moscow plotters

James Meek in Moscow

RUSSIA'S sacked security chief, Alexander Lebed, last night accused President Yeltsin's chief of staff, Anatoly Chubais, of taking over the running of the country from a head of state who was "elderly and ill".

dential decree sacking him from his two main jobs — as security council secretary and national security adviser — did not specifically mention his third, the presidential representative to Chechnya. He assumed he had been dismissed from this post too.

documents containing his conclusions about who was to blame for the Chechen conflict. Gen Lebed was vague about accusations he had been trying to set up a paramilitary force in the country, the Russian Legion, saying only that the documents relating to the plan — not drawn up by him — had been discussion papers only and had not been secret.



Out... Alexander Lebed, sacked by Boris Yeltsin, never hid his presidential ambitions

West fears for Chechen peace

Martin Walker in Brussels

WESTERN governments kept their bets on President Yeltsin yesterday, insisting that the sacking of General Alexander Lebed would not affect relations with Moscow.

the White House that the defence ministry appeared loyal to Mr Yeltsin, and was committed to continuing the strategic arms reduction process under START-2.

Maverick plans comeback as government wobbles

Alexander Lebed is too ambitious for the political wilderness and is regrouping already, writes David Hearst in Moscow

GENERAL Alexander Lebed, the former paratrooper who in July stepped into the breach to save the Russian election for a president who had just suffered a heart attack, lasted 121 days in office.

Even so, this crisis was not of Mr Yeltsin's making and he made his decision with evident reluctance. Out of the team goes the most popular man in the country.

usurping power using Mr Yeltsin's younger daughter, Tatiana Djachenko. Mr Chubais, a cool head under fire and a brilliant organiser, fought back. But the battle was getting too hot. It was time before one of them had to leave.

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'I thought he would draw the necessary conclusions'

THE following is part of President Yeltsin's televised speech announcing the sacking of Alexander Lebed. "I would like to say a few words about the situation regarding General Lebed. Unfortunately, the situation has turned out rather badly. Some time ago he offered to resign and I told him he had to learn to work with all state organisations and leaders. I told him: 'You have to learn how to do this, and then it will be easier for you to resolve problems.'"

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Advertisement for B&Q garden tools including Flymo GardenVac, Black & Decker Mastervac, and various shovels and rakes.

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Vertical advertisement on the left edge of the page, partially obscured and illegible.

Tottering on the vortex

Yeltsin's clumsy action bodes ill for the future

BORIS YELTSIN has blundered into new danger by his inept resolution of the Kremlin power struggle. The security chief Alexander Lebed may be shrouded in darkness but so are those who are attacking him.

Shaky in outward appearance as well as in political reality, Mr Yeltsin in his statement yesterday evening on national television failed to offer credible grounds for his drastic action.

likov. But the idea that he would use Chechen gunmen to seize power in Moscow appears to be total fantasy. There are, it goes without saying, no angels in the Kremlin power struggle.

There are now fresh doubts about Mr Yeltsin's ability to survive his forthcoming heart surgery in any state to continue presidential rule — if at all.

Mr Neil Hamilton rests his case

Not, alas, in court. In the hallowed pages of the Spectator

NEIL HAMILTON'S local newspaper, the Northwich Chronicle, published this week the verdict of local voters on their MP (they want him to spend more time with Mrs Hamilton.)

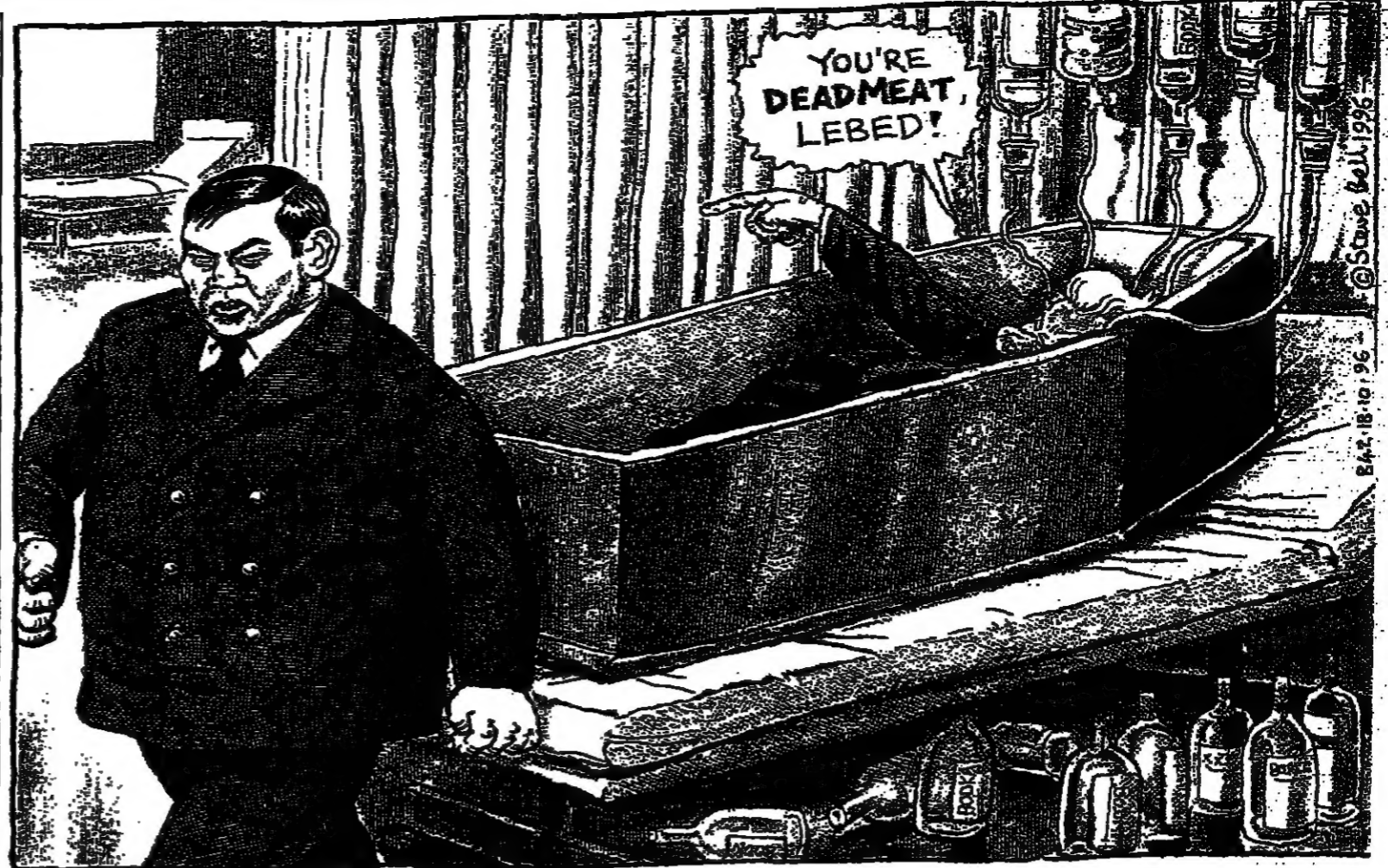
The answer is that Hamilton gaily carried on meeting Al Fayed and asking questions on his behalf. In the fortnight after the bombshell revelation about Al Fayed he submitted no fewer than four written questions aimed at Lornho.

The eternal joy of motherhood

Clare Short's reunion is bliss for her and a model for others

CLARE Short did more than just a good turn to herself in placing her name on the register where adopted people can look for their birth parents.

Ms Short rightly feels no shame — only pain for what happened in the 1960s. It may only have been three decades ago but it was another world where women were not counselled before they gave up babies and respectable single girls did not become pregnant before they got married.



Letters to the Editor

A shoot-out over the gun ban

THE gun lobby and their apologists are claiming that voters in rural constituencies are likely to oppose the Government's stance.

I also reject the shooting industry's claim that the Government has been "panicked into pandering to public opinion". True, public opinion is overwhelmingly against the gun freaks.

was obviously crying out for help. Could someone also shed light on whether the Government is aiming to ban itself from selling arms to countries we know to have atrocious human-rights records?

There is nothing to stop the Government legislating for the use of shotguns as well. I make the following suggestions: Shotguns should be limited solely to pest control on agricultural land.

THE British Safety Council heartily endorses banning private handguns. We agree with David Mellor (No guns in the House, October 14) that the Government should have begun the legislative process in the immediate aftermath of Dunblane.

However, Mr Mellor has not been willing in the past to do much more than call for gun control through the medium of our national newspapers. When we wrote to him in March, offering our help and resources in running an effective campaign, he merely said that we should write to our local MP expressing our views.

time kills with hardly a murmur more than 500 children per year with motor cars. G F Matthews, Montefiore Avenue, Ramsgate, Kent CT11.

WHAT concerns me is the state of mind of the lobbyists who demand "rights" the freedom to play with killer weapons. Whilst on active service between 1940 and 1945 I was very much aware of the snap, crackle and pop of bullets tearing into flesh and bone, and of what little one could do for damaged human bodies.

All credit to the women who are crystallising the national response to Dunblane, and who are not prepared to allow ministers of governments to pass the children by "on the other side."

J Plant, (Ex RAF Medical Branch.) Hilton Lane, Walsall WS4.

IN competitive rifle shooting, the targets are the traditional kind ie of concentric circles. On pistol or handgun ranges, the targets are imitations of human beings.

I find it a bit hard to take the collective hypocrisy of a society that pillories me because of the activities of a lone perverser, but at the same

Switched off

DEAF old pensioners like me also detest automatic switchboards (Letters, October 15 & 16). A useful tip: simply tap keys at random.

SO the National Health Service needs another £200 million this year to avoid a cash crisis. That is what taxpayers are paying for Trident every two months.

Please include a full postal address, even an e-mailed address, and a telephone number. We are not government and we are not liable to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.



Pure Genius or low cunning?

THERE is another side to the Pure Genius site that has not received due attention in the media (The seeds on stony ground, October 16). It hosted not only a human community but also a unique ecology.

living there and demolishing their dwellings, they have also clear-felled a row of London plane trees and are in the process of bulldozing the rest of the site. It is coincidental that this took place the very day before the London Ecology Committee meets to consider the adoption of this site as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation?

Yes and No to the Referendum Party advert

YET again a prominent pro-European integrationist — in this case Sir Leon Brittan (Not guilty, Sir James, October 16) — is waiting on a byway.

People like Sir Leon argue that we should join the single currency because it is "in the British interest". This considers only the economic benefits, with no thought for any cultural or social implications.

THE advertisement from the Referendum Party (October 15) was obviously intended to outrage and shock. Yet it made no such impact on me.

And my second thought was that the Referendum Party's pitch — that our Westminster system somehow protects our "national independence" against these "un-elected officials" — is a joke. There is no longer any "national independence" to protect.

YOU say (Leader, October 14) that the proper course for Britain over EMU is "constructive delay". Of course, it is right to see if the single European currency goes ahead — as now seems increasingly likely.

However, you argue that we should "watch and wait" to see if EMU works. Your hesitation is partly because Britain is "historically inflation prone". But the main advantage of membership of the euro is that it would let us shake off our inflationary bias in favour of a credible, stable and low-inflation monetary policy.

Bad sports

HAVING scanned many issues of the Sunday Sport and its ugly sister, I wholly endorse Natasha Walter's plea for their top-shelving (The sport of misogyny, October 16). However, this is not purely a women's issue.

Foreigners, gays and people with disabilities are frequent targets of journalistic abuse in the "news" columns. Low-achieving and emotionally vulnerable adolescents are urged to be "proud to poke".

Margaret Moore, Nuns Way, Cambridge CB4.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: Ratty, in Kenneth Grahame's classic The Wind in the Willows was a likeable character. In fact he was not a rat at all but a water vole (arvicola terrestris) and because the species are numbers have been seriously depleted.

Key opens a new debate

ANOTHER "bypass" on a Ayrunk road, another local MP claiming universal public support and exhaustive public inquiries revealing this as the only possible solution to the town's traffic problems (Duel carriage-way, October 15), Salisbury is not Newbury, however.

The inquiry into the bypass should be reopened. But let's look at better public transport, "green commuting plans" to cut local car commuting, safe routes to schools, better pedestrian and cycle routes, buses to surrounding villages, better use of rail for the strategic Bristol/South Coast freight traffic.

IN 1993 the Department of Transport admitted at a public inquiry into a proposed bypass through the then roads minister's own constituency that it would not solve the city's local traffic problems.

Indeed, it was never intended to. The City? Salisbury. The minister? Robert Key. In 1996, a former roads minister who was responsible for the destruction of Twyford Down admitted that "with hindsight", the road should have been put in a tunnel.

Most of Salisbury's traffic is generated entirely within the city. The city's peak-hour traffic problems are caused by too many people commuting by car, too many people driving to the out-of-town Tesco bypass can only make things worse.

VERONICA HEATH

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

السنة الحادية عشر

Diary
Matthew Norman

Life and art, art and life... try to be like Rory Bremner, the other Mike Yarwood. On the day the wonderful tale of Clare Short's reunion with her son emerged, an excitable call to received from the Riviera. It is Val Corbett, wife of Labour MP Robin, and co-author with Lindsay Pollard and Joyce Hopcraft of the recent masterwork Best of Enemies. "You read Best of Enemies — you didn't just skim it, did you? — so you'll understand," she says. Um... "Look, in the book, the MP had a baby boy, and his girl friend gave it up for adoption and they split up — and then, years later, they got married. It's exactly what happened to Clare Short." Good God. "Do you know, we agonised for months over whether any of us would believe such a thing, and now it's happened in real life." It is a miracle. Val refuses to discuss any supernatural properties that their third novel possesses (they are almost halfway through it, so they must have been writing solidly since Tuesday), saying only: "You won't be disappointed." Plenty of rump, then? "Oh yes, but we don't like what we'll put on 'Penis in va...'" Yes, well, thank you very much, and good day.

In King's Parade, news of the funeral of King's College, Cambridge, is not only the usual begging for money, but also early warning of two lectures commemorating the 50th anniversary of John Maynard Keynes's death. Keynes is one of the two highly distinguished people to emerge from King's this century. Happily, the picture accompanying the announcement is of the other, EM Forster.

EAGER to impress new editor Rosie Boycott, independent on Sunday hacks have been studying her last edition of Esquire for some direction, and they have found it in the cover story. "Soaper-model... Britain's sexiest soap actresses take a break from incest, family feuds and pulling pints." It says, while on the inside pages, some of them also take a break from wearing their bras. Neal Ascherson is working on a piece entitled "What their parties say about New Labour's front bench stunners" for his first column under the new regime. Meanwhile Alan Watkins has been musing confusedly over a contents-page blurb promising an in-depth look at "the brave, the smooth, the worthy, droolsome, whiff-tastic world of teenage magazines".

MEANWHILE, in party mood after the sacking of Miss Boycott's admirable predecessor Peter Wilby, Monty Montgomery held a bash at the Victoria & Albert museum. Although one or two journalists may have gate-crashed, the guests were almost entirely advertisers, of course, and they enjoyed Monty's speech. His entire pitch, it seems, was a celebration of what makes his paper different... how drastically it has cut its staff, and how it costs much less to produce than any other paper. Monty can afford to celebrate, of course, having pocketed over £1 million from share options this year alone.

A Nearly Happy Birthday to Mandy Manderson, who turns 43 on Monday. Oofy Wegg-Frosser denies that the party will include a laser show bonned off St Paul's Cathedral, a conga round Trafalgar Square and the disco at the YMCA. All that remained was to ask him to pass on our best birthday wishes. "Err, yes," said Oofy.

INTERVIEWED in the New York Times, the Duchess of York (impatiently referred to as "Ferguson") is asked whether, if she emigrates to America, she would choose New York or California. "I'm not going to say where," says Ferguson, "but I will say that the Midwest gets overlooked." Yes, but of course. The Midwest... Montana, Ohio and Nebraska... the Bible Belt, home of simple, majority, Shucks, Ma'am, it sounds just perfect.

I ONLY WANT TO BE SURE THAT MY PARENTS AREN'T PUTTING...



Expensive noises in the Murdoch engine

Commentary Peter Preston

It's one mystery the insight team has never touched. What really happened to Andrew Neil? One moment he was the Sunday Times' leading journalist — he could only be sighted dabbling ephemeral in Murdoch boodles and doomed TV projects far away before leaving the Rupe/Clint love-in nest forever. Why did the earth move so calamitously for Andrew? After the pallmone, the acrimony. We are about to be told why. Eager readers of Neil's imminent memoirs will have their own theories. Maybe Mr Murdoch was secretly envious of his star editor's fine prose, innate modesty and sparkling wit. (Other star editors will be assessing that for the Guardian next week.) Maybe — to update a running metaphor — Rupert is the

Mick Jagger of serial sackers. Maybe he can't stand any hired hand stealing his thunder. (Read all about that in the Guardian on Monday.) But the essential Neil thesis, already stirring a few headlines, is far more jolting. The final boom was lowered, he says, because his Sunday Times was bad for bigger Murdoch business. We're back in March 1994 and the Sunday Times (amongst others) is full of Malaysian back-handers and Pergau dams. "You're boring people," Rupert shouts down the phone at Neil. "You're doing much too much on Malaysia. Page after page of it, which nobody can understand. Malaysia doesn't merit all this coverage. They're all corrupt in that part of the world." Neil notes that Murdoch had just dumped the BBC Television World Service from his Asian Star satellite to appease the Chinese government and that Malaysia's incensed Prime Minister Mahathir is poised to open his own Star wars with News International. One "prosperous, fast-growing tiger economy" closed to satellite trade for the foreseeable future. Would it be India, or more from China, next? Neil (via an anonymous

British minister) hears how the Pergau row blew itself out 15 months later with a direct quote from the Britain's own High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur. Any residual problems? "Not since Murdoch fixed it with Mahathir. The PM made it clear that Murdoch would never do business in his country so long as Andrew Neil was editor of the Sunday Times". Mahathir himself is reportedly told by Murdoch that a "troque editor" has been "sorted out". It is, of course, true that literary reminiscences from what Neil himself used to call "the ex-editors club" tend to wallow generically in hindsight, self-justification and vainglory. It's also true that, on this rendition, Rupert Murdoch did nothing the British Government wouldn't have done itself if it had had the chance. Nevertheless: serious sex-change stuff. We have grown sloppily used to thinking of Mr Murdoch as some pre-millennial Citizen Kane, a media baron — with added charisma and deal-making flair — determined to infiltrate his views of the world on the world. He does indeed have views. And (as ex-eds from Derek James to Kelvin MacKenzie attest) they are ruthlessly in-

flected. But that is only part of the story: and probably the older, titered part. John Major, to be sure, is still supposed to quake when Rupert calls the Sun. Tony Blair will let away to an Australian island (with Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister as it transpires) and present his winsome self for Murdoch inspection. The impression is of nifty politicians paying court. Yet, increasingly, it's difficult to know who's wooing whom. Mr Mahathir, it seems, was not unctuously seeking favours: he was demanding them. The empire wasn't striking back: it was scrambling for an accommodation. That is not, coolly considered, so very surprising. The empire isn't a puzzle division, but a scattered sprawl of territorial. Its global base

'You're boring Rupert shouts down the phone. You're doing much too much on Malaysia'

camp depends on a bewildering mesh of companies and shifting tax regimes. Individual nation states — keeping their most precious sports terrestrial or chomping after a news coverage that suits them — can exercise a deal of clout. The further the empire stretches into satellites and movies and American networks, the more potentially embarrassing or otiose proper newspapers become. Why own the South China

Post in Hong Kong when, prospectively, every post-1997 news story it runs may get up Beijing's nose? Meanwhile, as Rupert slogs on through the Times/Telegraph price-cutting campaign, does he exult that one cinema hit like Independence Day can cover Times' losses for a decade? Or does it all begin to feel a little beside the point?

The questions, in short, are changing. The Murdoch perspective is changing. And the future, in turn, needs adjustment. Business is pragmatic, not ideological. Business dictates that (even) nation states are easier to deal with than federalist superstates. America, full of restrictions, was a pain to break into. Why sit back and let that happen all over again as a united Europe begins to feel its oats? Your newspapers can help there, turning ideological to order. But when it comes to films and sport and the explosion of television, pragmatism squeezes out political beliefs. The multi-media mass market is international, ubiquitous and therefore bland. It wants no waves made. It wants to be left alone to make money. And here the newspaper fit becomes much edgier. Newspapers have national roots, and identities. They can be used tactically to browbeat governments. But, strategically, they can be bland. They are tools to help build an empire, but not sustain it. Andrew Neil thinks he was the first spanner in the works. Too amazingly modest of him. I father wonder if he wasn't the first rasping choke of the Big End, about to give up the ghost.

Full Disclosure is published by Macmillan, £25

Mother Teresa: who does she think she is?



Bel Littlejohn

MEET I'M a people person. Ask anyone — or at least anyone I'm still talking to: you can't trust the others, you really can't, not one little bit. And as a self-confessed people person, I'm overwhelmingly concerned — and I don't often admit this, it's a very private thing — to make those worse off than me feel good about themselves. I give as much as I can. Of course, when I say "give as much as I can" I don't mean financially. I mean spiritually. Let's face it, people worse off don't want all the extra sheer bloody worry of dealing with my hard-earned cash. They're in enough mess as it is, without the extra hassle of accountability. What these people really want, even if they don't know it, bless 'em, is my spiritual sustenance. This isn't to say that I'm not generous with my donations. It's a very, very private thing, and I don't really want to talk about it. Basically, I'd hate people to realise how generous I am, and how far my sacrifices go. So let's just put it like this. If I see a stooped figure outside my nearest superstore (have you tried the new freeze-dried Waitrose Vegetarian Tikka Masala with Sultanas and Lemongrass? It's to die for) rating a collecting box for this charity or that, I never pass them by without giving them a huge great big smile of encouragement, a smile that says, "I'm with you all the way, but sadly I've got my last-minute shopping to do — must rush!"

the supreme mistress of irony? Yup, you've got it — Mother Teresa and her Sisters of Charity. Anyone who read last Monday's searing Guardian piece about her so-called organisation, or who has read Chris Hitchens's remarkably measured biography of that lady, Worse Than Hitler, will know quite how dreadful it is. As the article said, there's one feature about Mother Teresa which really sticks in the gullet: she's only interested in keeping them alive. ● FACT: Her homes have far too many people in them, and a lot of them are really not well enough for ordinary decent helpers to mix with. That article spelt out the fact in damning detail that one of her homes alone has greedily allowed in 50,000 people since it opened in 1952 — small wonder room service is so slack. ● FACT: There are no CDs in her homes, no woks, no Extra Virgin Oil, no French films on video, precious few modern novels, no DVDs, no sun-ray lamps, no focaccia bread. I suppose the lady thinks, in her Almighty way, that these basic commodities are just that little bit too good for her lowly clientele. ● FACT: Mother Teresa ignores all Western medical advice and, in her high-handed arrogant way, can't bloody well be bothered to put factor 15 sun-lotion on her face — hence the leathery skin and mass of wrinkles. ● FACT: Far from being the self-proclaimed "little old lady who has devoted her life to the good of others", Mother Teresa is a PR supreme brilliantly skilled at manipulating the media. After Hitchens's book appeared, she cold-bloodedly refused to appear on Start the Week, the Late Show, Wogan and Noel's House Party, thus deftly turning his attack on her to her advantage. Makes you think, eh?

And while this diminutive FR wizard is gallivanting around on an ego trip, dragging the less-well-off into her homes and then denying them access to all kinds of visual and intellectual stimulation (the new Bertolucci is still not available in Calcutta, despite repeated requests from many influential people in the London media), we leading columnists at the Guardian are doing our level best to make this ailing world get well soon. Opinions are our first-aid kits, paragraphs our pills, words our syringes, photo-bylines our bandages; and we do whatever we can, come rain or shine, to make our opinions available to whoever should be in need of them. Unlike Mother Teresa, who, when she's not forcing the sick to lie down in her homes, just swaggers around the chat-show circuit looking "holy".

But then, I'm a people person, and that's a term that would mean nothing to Mother Terza-Know-Who. 'Nuff said.



Felicity Collier argues that although adoption procedures have improved greatly since Clare Short's day, the Government must not let slip its Bill for further reform

Four parents, one child

CLARE SHORT, happily reunited with her adopted son Toby Graham, has provided us with a good-news story. In talking about her feelings at the time she relinquished her son for adoption 31 years ago, she has described the pain she has lived with since that time, but overall her son's adoption has had a very successful outcome. Such a positive outcome should be available to more adopted children — an opportunity now offered by a draft Adoption Bill being considered by the Government. Yet there are worrying signs that this Bill will not be part of the Queen's Speech. If so, it will mark a step backwards in the tremendous progress made since Clare Short chose to put her son up for adoption.

We do know that a relatively small number of adopted adults try to contact their birth parents, and a much larger proportion want to know about the circumstances of their adoption. Adopted people often do not seek information until their 30s, or even later, and we know that there are key times in people's lives when this need is triggered: marriage, the birth of a child or the death of an adoptive parent may suddenly create a tremendous urge for people to learn about their origins. Some children and young people feel that it would be a betrayal of their adoptive parents to trace their birth parents. It is vital that adop-

tive parents are able to understand the importance which "identity" can assume, and relieve their children of this sense of guilt and offer their support. Finding a birth parent very rarely diminishes the strength of the bond between adopted parents and their child. Toby Graham's experience shows how much he valued his adoptive father's support. "Real" parents will be the people who nurtured us through our childhood, helped us through difficulties and provided a happy family life. This does not mean there is not a place for a valuable but different

now, she would be able to request to meet the people who are adopting her baby, and to provide a good deal of information about herself and the child's father as the child grows up. She might hand over photographs and letters, and in many cases will have the opportunity for some limited contact and exchange of information over the years. But there are still gaps in the law, which the new draft Bill needs to fill at the earliest opportunity. The pain described by Clare Short is just one sign that the Bill will fulfil a real need. Large numbers of babies were placed for

the rest of their lives. They can feel long-term heaviness and grief if they have no contact with their child and no one to talk to about their experience: up to a third of birth mothers who gave up their children in past years are thought to have needed help from mental-health services as a result. Every child needs the advantage of a loving and supportive family throughout its life. Children who have experienced numerous moves in public care are over-represented in prison, the mental-health system and on the streets, and are less likely to

Some feel it would be a betrayal of their adoptive parents to trace their birth parents. It is vital that adoptive parents understand the importance which 'identity' can assume

relationship between an adoptive child and his or her birth parents. If a young woman at university today finds that she is pregnant, she has access to receive proper counselling — which needs to be followed up by post-adoption advice in future years. The Bill places a duty on adoption agencies, including all local authorities, to provide post-adoption counselling to all participants in the adoption process (although resources must still be made available to make this possible). Adoption is never an easy decision, and the painful after-effects for birth parents are very often with them for

achieve a good education, stable employment and close relationships in later life. The Adoption Bill will make it easier to provide a stable home life for children who cannot live with their own families. It introduces "placement orders", which let local authorities apply to the courts to place children in public care, for whom there is no prospect of a return to their birth families, in loving adoptive homes. The Bill also proposes to end the anomaly whereby, when a step-parent adopts the child of his or her spouse, that spouse (the child's birth parent) must become an adoptive parent too.

This can later lead to considerable confusion for the child. The Bill will lead to a more open and honest approach, enabling adopted children to grow up much better informed about their parents. It will make it easier for children reaching 18 to gain access to information about their birth parents. It will also ratify the Hague Convention of 1993, which lays down agreed procedures for the adoption of children from overseas. This will help to prevent child-trafficking and private adoption. Yet there are indications that the Government may not be planning to include the Bill in the Queen's Speech, despite the commitment with which John Borer introduced it in March. This is unacceptable: children in this country have waited too long to be further delayed. The reasons include apparent concern that it might have as difficult a passage through the House as the Family Law Bill, which the Government might not wish to risk with a small majority. However, Chris Smith said yesterday that the Labour Party would support a Bill in a similar form to the current one, and it should be "a relatively trouble-free zone" for the Government in the next six months. If the Government does drop the Bill, inevitably a new government will have competing priorities and a busy agenda.

Felicity Collier is Director of the British agencies for Adoption and Fostering

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Finance Guardian

'Unknown entity' shatters the Footsie glass ceiling

'Holy shit! So that's the latest stage in her quest to take over the world. She's an incredible force of nature, unstoppable. She's smart, funny, super-aggressive. Christ, I admire her.' US colleague



Marjorie Scardino, the first woman chief executive of a FTSE-100 company, with the Pearson group's new deputy chairman, Dennis Stevenson. Her appointment unsettled share dealers

PHOTOGRAPH: PETER MACDARMID

DAVID GOW
MARJORIE Scardino, an American virtually unknown in Britain, is the first woman chief executive of a company featuring in the FTSE 100 index of top companies. Her appointment by media and entertainment group Pearson stunned the City yesterday.

circulation and profits growth, beat three male contenders to take over from Frank Barlow, aged 66, who retires at the end of the year. Mrs Scardino, aged 49, is widely admired by close colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic. However, she provoked a dismayed reaction among City analysts as "not a big hitter" and an "unknown entity", and among dealers who marked down Pearson shares. The stock closed down 13 at 87p.

Analysts, who had looked for a man of the calibre of Archie Norman or Asda or Lord Hollick to spearhead a refocusing of the unloved Pearson, were also surprised that three recent male recruits to the group's board had been overlooked. One of

Pearson's "new generation" — Greg Dyke, in charge of Pearson's TV interests, David Bell, head of the information division, and John Makinson, finance director — had been expected to be Mr Barlow's successor and transform Pearson into a leading media group capable of resisting takeover.

Senior insiders insisted that all three were such recent board appointees (they joined as head of its North American operations in 1988 before moving to London in 1993. "The City is learning about her managerial and en-

trepreneurial track record very fast." Mrs Scardino said she would study the group before charting any new courses. Acknowledging that dealers were taken aback because of her relative low-profile at the Economist, an unquoted company, she added: "I'll have to ask them to wait and see what I produce."

Feisty, tough. And a bruised banker knows it

PROFILE/Lawyer, parent to a child star and publisher masks drive with Southern charm, writes DAVID GOW

MARJORIE Scardino is a prime example of the feisty American businesswoman capable of outgunning male colleagues in the ruthless drive to the top and managing the perfect family, all at the same time. The City, loudly questioning yesterday her capacity for reshaping the ragged conglomerate that is Pearson, will find a very tough lady prepared to take on — and defeat — the Establishment in whatever hue. "Holy shit!" said one American colleague. "She's the latest stage in her quest to take over the world. She's an incredible force of nature, completely unstoppable. She's a great woman, a helluva lady, a dame, super-aggressive. Christ, I admire her."

where her husband Albert was media spokesman for David Dinkins, the city's first black mayor. Continuing the family tradition — she has three children — son Hal, aged 11, is a star of three Hollywood films. Both Scardinos, *mere et pere*, are all the more iconoclastic for City mores as they come out of the anti-Vietnam War, civil rights, black-voter-registration campaigns of the 60s. Before taking over the Economist's North American operation, where she oversaw a huge advance in circulation and revenue, she was a partner in a Savannah, Georgia, law firm and publisher and co-founder, with Albert, of the Georgia Gazette, an alternative weekly that specialised in exposing politicians' corrupt links with business. It won a Pulitzer Prize but folded under a mountain of debt in 1984. This background, according to US friends, can be bullish. "She's done a masterly job of masquerading her drive and insatiable ambition with her great Southern charm and humour," one said. At the Economist respect for her commercial acumen mixes with wariness about this extraordinary combination.

Go abroad to get ahead

THE BIAS/R's the same old story as females face male prejudice, report CELIA WESTON and DAVID GOW

ANY woman who wants to climb the corporate ladder should apply to work overseas. Foreign women do not face the same professional restrictions and can benefit from the greater flexibility that many cultures afford them over homeborn applicants, according to research by a senior Canadian academic. "Employers tend to see the foreignness before the femaleness," says Nancy Adler of McGill University in Montreal, Canada. "Successful women in the 21st century companies will select both women and men to manage their global operations."

Research published yesterday in the US, showing that women make up 46 per cent of the workforce but hold only 10 per cent of the top executive positions at the Fortune 500 companies, confirms this. It also shows that, even allowing for a range of personal and organisational characteristics, women senior executives are less likely than their male colleagues to be promoted. Young men are the most likely to advance quickly. Sussan Vinnicombe, the

Dean of Cranfield School of Management, says her own studies of women, even at senior levels, are less confident about their competence being recognised. "There's an absolute bias against women at the top levels. It's very depressing. When are we ever going to get to the point in corporate management when people look beyond gender?"



— has done so much better in pushing women into senior positions. Until that happens in the private sector, we're just not going to change." Nor is Tricia Boyle, Edinburgh-based management consultant and Ashridge management school associate, optimistic. She says among other impediments, institutional sexism in patriarchal firms and perceptions of women's domestic role. "Research shows that to get on you need mentors and sponsors — one to help you and another to put your name forward — and they tend to be men. Given the sexual dynamic, if a man puts a woman forward people say he must be sleeping with her, so sponsoring a woman is seen as a bigger risk for a man."

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.94	France 7.96	Italy 2.389	Singapore 2.19
Austria 18.85	Germany 2.9850	Malta 0.5595	South Africa 7.28
Belgium 48.25	Greece 378.03	Netherlands 2.875	Spain 199.00
Canada 2.865	Hong Kong 11.94	New Zealand 2.2040	Sweden 10.34
Cyprus 8.7175	India 56.53	Norway 10.08	Switzerland 1.94
Denmark 9.1025	Ireland 0.6895	Portugal 239.00	Turkey 145.247
Finland 7.2090	Israel 5.07	Saudi Arabia 5.81	USA 1.5485

They're young, gifted and confident

THE MARKET/Women expect a fair deal but lag behind men on pay and status, finds RICHARD THOMAS

ENTHUSIASTIC, well-educated young women are pouring on to the jobs market, confident of their ability to compete with men, according to a survey published yesterday. Over the next decade, eight out of 10 adults joining the world of work will be women, as girls continue to out-perform boys at school and college, and men suffer from the decline of traditional industries, the report says. Women's growing presence

in the workplace — with female employees now filling almost half of all jobs, against less than 40 per cent in the 1970s — and high-profile successes by women like Marjorie Scardino, have fuelled a new surge of self-confidence, the research by Market Assessment shows. While 77 per cent of all women think they are as likely as men to succeed, nine out of 10 women under the age of 34 are certain they will have the same opportunities.

But the data suggests these hopes are misplaced, as women continue to lag behind men in status and pay. Emma Kaufmann, a spokesperson for Market Assessment, said: "The positive finding is that women are more confident about their chances. But the downside is that, as things stand, their hopes are likely to be dashed." The paper shows that women's earnings suffer permanent damage from taking time off to have children, with their pay packets falling from 85 per cent of men's in their late 20s, to 67 per cent by the time they hit 40. Half of all women with a child under five work, accord-

ing to the survey, with most saying their income is essential to the household budget. But the report highlights the problems faced by many women — especially those at the bottom of the income scale — in obtaining decent childcare. And few want workplace-based provision, because of the upheaval caused if they change jobs. Childcare problems and a belief that mothers are the best carers of children mean that 78 per cent of all women with children under 16 would prefer not to be at work at all. Working Women, Market Assessment Publications, Crinon Street, London N1 9SQ, 0171 287 3585, 8495.

Notebook Spiteful treatment of a whistleblower



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE decision by Kleinwort Benson to cancel the severance pay of assistant director Mark Horn following his allegations of poor practice by fund managers, is spiteful and disgraceful. Having failed to receive any satisfactory answers on a series of issues concerning the way in which Kleinwort conducts its fund management business, Mr Horn took the only honourable course open to him — he went public with his complaints. For this he has been castigated by the bank for disclosing confidential information and internal documents to third parties (details page 22).

stronger compliance culture, in which officers could deal with senior executives on an equal basis.

Pink revolution

THE choice of Economist chief executive Marjorie Scardino for the much more complex job of running the whole Pearson group is exciting and fascinating. It is exciting in that Pearson becomes the first FTSE 100 group to smash through the glass ceiling in Britain's boardrooms. It is fascinating in that she is the total outsider, in terms of gender, experience and background in a group which not so long ago was best known for its patriarchal tendencies. The stock market's immediate reaction was more than a little unkind. In her management of the Economist in New York and later in Britain she has been a formidable presence. Even in the gossip world which journalists inhabit it is difficult to find critics. But she will have to demonstrate her people skills fairly quickly if Pearson is not to wobble under her stewardship. It is important to win the confidence of Greg Dyke, chief executive of the television division, and David Bell, chief executive of the Financial Times and a well-known figure in the City — both of whom were contenders for the top job. Their departure would be a serious danger signal and demonstrate that the strategy of bringing on new young executives had turned to custard. The main problem for Pearson remains its disastrous foray into new technology through Mindscape, which has gobbled up at least £40 million. Nevertheless, the Pearson Ms Scardino inherits is a more focused group following extraneous disposals like Royal Dalton. She may, however, want to consider whether the company wants the risk of controlling 50 per cent of Lazarus, even with its historical role as a cash generator.

Pushy pound

IT IS wonderful seeing the pound spring towards the DM2.45 level after the humiliation of September 1992 and the further falls which followed the Major devaluation. As the authorities like to point out, a stronger pound offers a useful barrier against inflation at a time when the Chancellor is resisting the Bank of England's calls for higher base rates. But, while sterling holders glory on the slopes of Switzerland and Austria this winter, nobody should forget how often currencies overshoot and how, when they correct themselves, the downward move is the steepest and most painful. Many of the factors supporting sterling, including the strength of the dollar, must be regarded as temporary. Until hard decisions are taken on the public finances and the Bank of England is allowed to establish its credibility as an inflation fighter, sterling rallies will always be ephemeral.

The ladies in waiting



THE City has been waiting years for its first woman head of a FTSE 100 company, and there were many contenders. Here is a selection. Kathleen O'Donovan, left, another corporate heavyweight, became the first woman finance director when she was appointed to the board of BT — an industrial conglomerate — in 1991. Although she was piped to the post for last-time honours, Ms O'Donovan is a safe long-term bet: she is only 39.



Rosemary Thorne, right, is another finance director — often a last stop before the big job — of J Sainsbury plc. She has 20 O levels and a distinguished retailing career. If women in high-profile positions are rare, black women are pretty much unheard of. A prominent exception is Fec Mwangi, a black graduate of the University College and the LSE, who was poached from BZW last month by AMP Asset Management, where she heads one of the three fund-management teams. Among other women pushing at the borders of the male citadels are: Carol Galley, vice-chairman of Mercury Asset Management; Clara Freeman, who was appointed to the Marks & Spencer board earlier this year; Helen Schneider Lenne, a board member of Deutsche Bank; and Rosalind Gilmore, chair of the Building Societies Commission.

Kleinwort 'reneging on its pay-off deal'

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

MARK Horn, the high-flying Kleinwort Benson fund manager who was sacked after raising concerns about the ethics of the company's investment business, yesterday claimed that his employer was refusing to honour a £12,000 severance agreement.

Mr Horn says that his former employer backtracked on the deal after he expressed concerns publicly about the running of Kleinwort's investment operations.

He has claimed that his fiduciary duty to the interests of his clients was being compromised through pressure from other parts of the Kleinwort Benson group.

Mr Horn was sacked because he failed to follow management instructions, has denied acting improperly.

Mr Horn has given details of the allegations to the City regulator Imro, which has begun an investigation into the way that Kleinwort is managed.

It emerged yesterday that the investigation will include allegations that London fund managers were informally instructed not to exercise their right to vote at the annual shareholder meetings of certain German companies.

Mr Horn says the instruction was given by Kleinwort's German parent, Dresdner Bank.

Kleinwort has sent Mr Horn a letter in which it claims his decision to speak out represented a "breach of your duty of confidentiality".

Imro is examining your allegations, Kleinwort Benson is confident that Imro will confirm that Kleinwort Benson has behaved in compliance with its regulatory obligations and duties to clients.

A spokesman for Kleinwort yesterday promised to make a statement after completion of the Imro inquiry.

Imro said yesterday that it was "neither able to confirm nor deny that we have mounted an investigation".

Mr Horn says that he felt obliged to speak out because he feared his legal responsibility to clients' interests were in danger of being compromised because of pressure from the rest of the investment business.

This pressure, he claimed, had resulted in a breakdown in the "Chinese wall" set up to separate fund management from the frequently conflict-

ing interests of corporate finance.

Among the other allegations put forward to Imro are claims that:

• The wife of a senior Kleinwort broker was given preferential treatment in the stock market flotation of a Spanish company four months ago.

• Certain employees bought shares in a "hot" Swedish biotechnology company using information not available to the rest of the market.

• When Mr Horn raised issues about his investments there were complaints that his remarks had a negative impact on other parts of Kleinwort's business.

Mr Horn, who has a high City reputation for his fund management skills, said he was not able to tolerate a situation that he claimed compromised the interests of his clients.

London the golden attraction for Africa's £50m bullion smugglers

Dan Atkinson

LONDON is at the centre of a £50 million-a-year gold-smuggling racket shipping stolen and otherwise-illegal bullion from Mozambique into Europe, the Guardian has learned.

Some of the metal is then refined in Britain, often in primitive garage refineries, and ends up in wedding and engagement rings and other jewellery.

"A lump of gold is a lump of gold," said one industry source, underlining the ease with which smugglers can refine away identifying features from illicit bullion.

Investigations by the South African police have highlighted the smuggling route from the Cape through Mozambique and on to airports in Britain. The rackets under investi-

gation dwarf run-of-the-mill evasion of VAT on gold, one case of which earlier this year involved £500,000 of tax evasion. Much of the bullion has been stolen from mines in South Africa, which are reeling from what they say is a total of more than \$350 million of losses every year. "It is a major tax on the mines", said a London gold analyst.

Of the rest, industry sources suggest that some is legitimately owned gold evading tough exchange-control regulations in South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. And there are hints that a proportion comes from jewellery stolen by muggers and thieves in South Africa.

The London route is thought by South African police to stretch from an airport in suburban Johan-

nesburg, from where undeclared gold is flown to Maputo in Mozambique. From there, it is flown to Britain, either Heathrow or quieter provincial airports, and re-refined to hide its origin.

With modern technology, a new breed of rogue refiner is able to produce gold bars to the standard of purity demanded by British and other European jewellers. "There are people who have the technology," said one expert. For sale to reputable jewellers, the gangs will need paperwork "proving" that the gold was refined at an established refinery, but for the less scrupulous in the trade there is no need.

Five tonnes of gold is thought to have gone along this route during the past year alone, metal which would have a total value of about £60 million at the

present market price. Illicit gold movements out of Africa to Europe are on a vastly different scale to the more common British problem of evasion of VAT on bullion, and there are suggestions that mafia-type gangs and ruthless criminal syndicates are involved in the racket.

Illicit shipments of gold to Britain are expected to decline, at least temporarily, after South African police activity during the past few weeks. London broker T Hoare said the Mozambique smuggling ring might have shifted a total of 15 tonnes of gold during the past 10 years, bullion with a total worth of more than \$180 million.

The Chamber of Mines in South Africa estimates that at 30 tonnes a year, or more than \$350 million worth.



Window on the east... Marks and Spencer's empire already includes eight outlets in Hong Kong PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCFEE

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Marks and Spencer's woolly jumpers going to meet their maker

OUTLOOKThe prospects for St Michael's worldwide ambitions are examined by Sarah Whitebloom

IT CAN only be a matter of time before the residents of Ramsay Street stock up on chicken tikka. A new way of life is on its way to Australia - Marks and Spencer is casting its eye on a new frontier.

Britain's biggest clothing retailer announced yesterday that it has decided to enter the Australian market.

Less than three weeks after announcing plans for a £120 million expansion in Germany, M&S said that it would be setting up shop - or rather franchises - in the Sydney area.

The retailer said yesterday that it believed the M&S "value for money" stance would go down well in Australia.

No doubt the move will be assisted by homesick emigrants, eager to slip back into something more comfortable.

Franchising has to be a better strategy than the firm's foray into America. Marks's \$750 million acquisition of the Brooks Brothers clothier in 1988 has attracted few plaudits.

Britain's most respected retailer, although things have been picking up.

At least M&S understands how to sell M&S and its products - and franchising is a

cheaper option than bricks and mortar.

M&S is already well established in continental Europe, although trading conditions have not always been favourable.

Its French operation is currently its largest on the Continent.

But the German move will make the country M&S's main European market, with

The \$750m acquisition of Brooks Brothers has attracted few plaudits

25 branches planned. More stores are planned for Ireland, though there is no talk yet of a march on Moscow.

Potential riches in the Far East are clearly far more tempting to M&S and the Australian move must be seen as part of this. It has already got eight branded stores in Hong Kong, 55 Brooks Brothers in Japan and an office in Shanghai looking at the possibil-

ties of breaking into the big one, the retailer's dream - the one-billion-person Chinese market.

St Michael seems quite determined to breach the Great Wall. The way Marks is going, it will literally soon be possible to encircle the world in green plastic carrier bags.

The firm already has 350 stores in 31 countries. They yielded 15 per cent (£1.17 billion) of its turnover in the year to the end of March. This was an increase of 11.7 per cent on the previous year.

M&S clearly sees no reason to stop there. If all goes to plan, the percentage of profits earned overseas will increase significantly over the next five years.

An M&S spokeswoman said yesterday: "We are ambitious about being a major global retailer."

Who knows? With M&S on the march, McDonald's may have competition in the global anti-culture stakes as nations around the world succumb to Marks's easy charms.

It is the stuff global retailers' dreams are made of: every shopping mall everywhere having the same plastic, illuminated shopfronts. It is possible: as much has happened in the UK.

Marks's management must salivate at the prospect of putting a ready meal on every table. M&S underwear in every bedroom and "tasteful" ties in every wardrobe.

Clothing plant closure will cost 700 jobs

ABOUT 700 jobs are to be lost with the closure of a clothing factory in Glasgow.

Claremont Garments, which produces women's clothing and lingerie mainly for Marks & Spencer, said it could not justify keeping the plant open, despite six weeks of rescue talks with the GMB union, the Scottish Office and the Glasgow Development Agency.

The company said it would maintain "a level of employment" for as many people as possible at the plant, in the Shawlands area of the city, between until the end of the year, during which time there would be discussions with those involved and their representatives. - *Reuter*

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All be after I Sham

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All bets off after Bosra Sham scare

Cecil denies there's trouble afoot. Graham Fox reports

BOOKMAKERS suspended betting on the Dubai World Cup Stakes last night following the news that Bosra Sham, the second favourite, had bruised her foot being shod for her eagerly-anticipated debut in the big race at Newmarket tomorrow.

Bosra Sham has delicate feet, and her near-future is particularly sensitive. When her shoes were removed yesterday to replace them with racing plates, the inevitable bruising was apparent.

Henry Cecil, her trainer, said that he had examined the 1,000 Guineas winner following exercise in the morning, and again in the afternoon. "She is 100 per cent," he asserted.

However, all the money in the credit offices was for Halling, who was backed down to evens. In the face of sustained support for the favourite, bookmakers decided to suspend their lists until declaration for the Champion Stakes at 10.15 this morning.

Bosra Sham is expected to take her chance, though, and she will be joined by Timarida, Ireland's leading filly who suffered from a minor lameness in the week, but John Oxx reported that his stable star appeared to have recovered fully.

Wall Street, who is entered for both the Breeders' Cup Turf and the Champion, is more likely to go to the races, but a final decision will be made this morning. The Godolphin colt forms part of a strong European raid on the Breeders' Cup races.

Mark Of Esteem will be the British banker in the Mile. He might be accompanied by his Godolphin stable companion, Charnwood Forest, who comfortably gave 4lb and a two-length beating to Bishop Of Cashel in the Challenge Stakes at Newmarket yesterday.

Simon Crisford, representing the winning team, said that if Charnwood Forest were to fly this morning, he would fly to Toronto on Monday.

Crisford was delighted by Mark Of Esteem's well-being. "He's really pinged and seems to be in even better form than before. He wouldn't want extremes of going, but otherwise he should handle any ground." The 2,000 Guineas winner is a best-priced 3-1 with Coral.

Kahhal will be the sole European challenger for the Breeders' Cup Sprint, last won by an overseas runner when Sheikh Albadou stormed home five years ago.

The dirt track at Woodbine is thought to favour those starting from the middle to outside stalls, and Kahhal's chance would be diminished if he were drawn among the low numbers.

In the Breeders' Cup Turf, European entries account for eight of the 14-runner field, with Shantou, Dushyantor, Pilsudski, Singpiel and Wall Street from England, Zagreb from Ireland, and Swain and Luna Wells representing the French champion trainer, Andre Fabre.

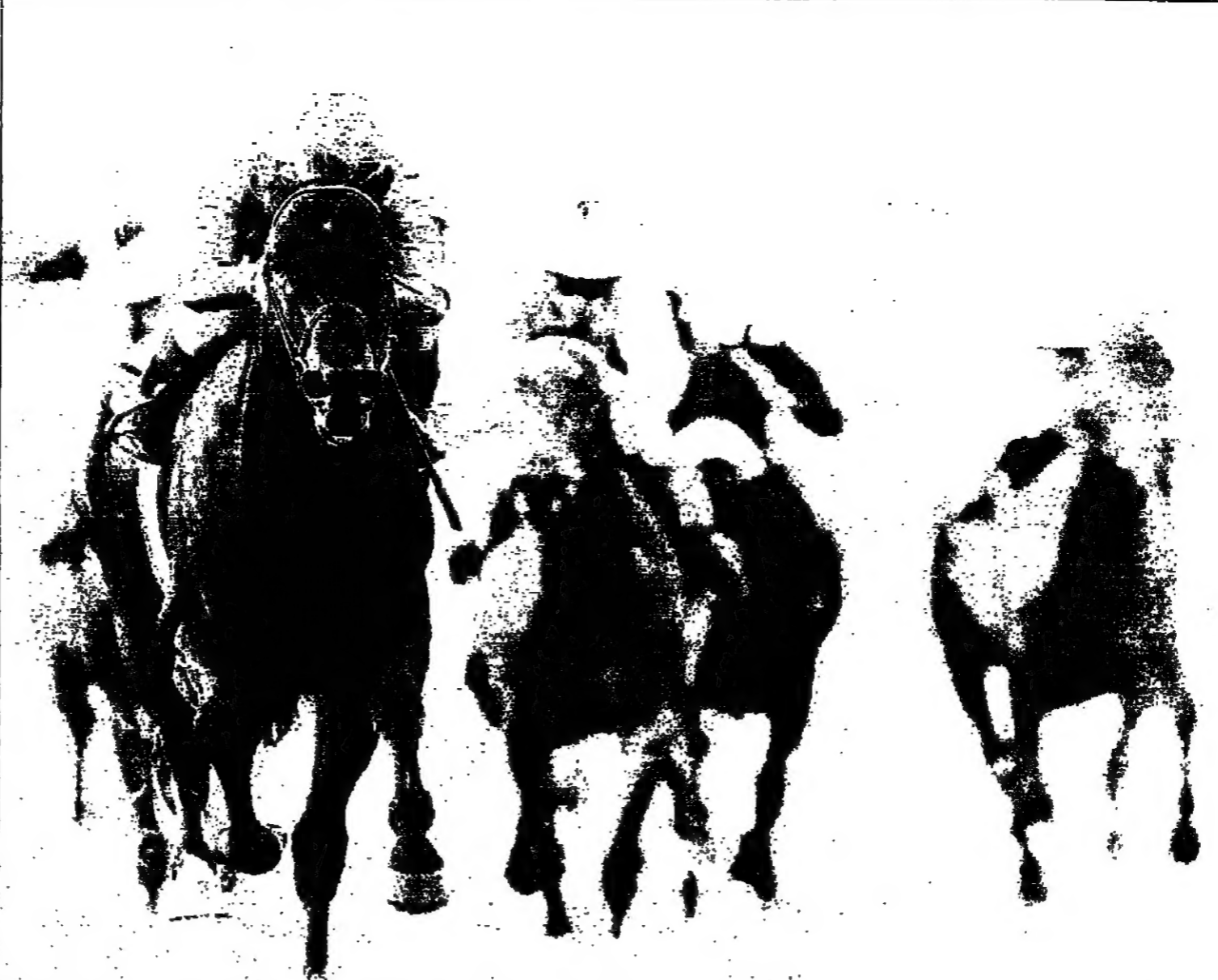
Chris Evans, racing secretary at Woodbine, said that soft going on the sand-based turf course would be unlikely.

John Gosden, who trains the progressive Shantou, would prefer some cut in the going for his St Leger winner, but he thought Shantou would probably take his chance.

Godolphin's Tamayaz, a respectable fifth in the Dubai World Cup, will be the only European horse to line up against Cigar in the Breeders' Cup Classic.

The Jockey Club said yesterday that there was no immediate urgency to hold their inquiry into the abandonment of racing at Haydock Park on Wednesday, brought about by jockeys refusing to ride in the second race.

Evidence was still being collated in a case described by their spokesman as "a unique set of circumstances, without precedent."



Unchallenged... Frankie Dettori steers Charnwood Forest to a comfortable victory in the Challenge Stakes at Newmarket

Kahal should advance his Classic claims

Ron Cox

KAHAL, deeply impressive when successful at Ascot on his second start, can justify the £12,000 it cost owner Hamdan Al-Maktoum to get a run in this afternoon's Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket.

The supplementary entry fee may be a drop in the ocean for Kahal's connections, but it represents a resounding vote of confidence in a colt taking a sharp step up in class.

Beaten a short head by Sunbeam Dance first time out, Kahal dashed out a near seven

lengths beating to that horse at Ascot where he clocked a comparatively fast time for seven furlongs.

Arguably the best guide of all to the merits of juvenile form, the clock points to Kahal as a potential top-notch and the Ed Dunlop-trained colt has been a solid second favourite in the Dewhurst betting all week.

Bahamian Bounty, the market choice on the strength of wins in the Middle Park Stakes and at Deauville, is not certain to be as effective over this extra furlong.

Using Zamindar as the yardstick, Frankie Dettori's

challenge has much the same chance as The West, who possibly had too much use made of him when brushed aside by Revogue at Longchamp. Revogue upheld that form when winning again at the Paris track last Sunday.

A line of form involving Revogue and Referendum suggests The West is superior to Irish raider Desert King.

In a race sure to have an impact on next year's Classic betting, Kahal (3.40) can advance his claims.

Next year's Dewhurst Stakes will form part of "Champions Day" at Newmarket when the Group One

two-year-old prize and the Challenge Stakes move to Saturday alongside the Dubai Champion Stakes and Tote Cesarewitch.

Announcing a package of improvements yesterday, Newmarket racecourse chairman Peter Player revealed plans for a £13 million facility to the Rowley Mile course with the grandstand rebuilt to provide modern facilities in time for the Millennium.

In addition to sectional timing, a new watering system will also be introduced next year, but the prevailing firm ground is a worry for Michael Stoute, who will walk the

course this morning before deciding whether to run Dazzle in the Rockfel Stakes. Sambac is doubtful unless the ground eases, and Moonlight Paradise (3.00) could end up a very short-priced favourite.

Forest Buck, who has had an operation on chipped bones in a knee, could have problems with the ground when he encounters the Dip in the Baring International Darley Stakes.

The value bet here is Neville Callaghan's Tarawa (2.35), who has a fine record at Newmarket and ran really well from an unfavourable draw in the Cambridgeshire.

Newmarket with form for the televised events

1.30 Sprint	3.00 Moonlight Paradise
1.40 Pasha's Revenge	3.40 Kahal
2.25 TARAWA (best)	4.15 Spectator's Mount
	4.30 Dazzle

2.00 NEW TRAVEL PREMIER MAIDEN STAKES 5YO (w) £5,000

1	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	5	Shantou 13
2	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	6	Shantou 13
3	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	7	Shantou 13
4	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	8	Shantou 13
5	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	9	Shantou 13
6	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	10	Shantou 13
7	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	11	Shantou 13
8	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	12	Shantou 13
9	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	13	Shantou 13
10	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	14	Shantou 13
11	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	15	Shantou 13
12	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	16	Shantou 13
13	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	17	Shantou 13
14	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	18	Shantou 13
15	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	19	Shantou 13
16	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	20	Shantou 13
17	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	21	Shantou 13
18	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	22	Shantou 13
19	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	23	Shantou 13
20	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	24	Shantou 13
21	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	25	Shantou 13
22	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	26	Shantou 13
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92	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	96	Shantou 13
93	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	97	Shantou 13
94	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	98	Shantou 13
95	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	99	Shantou 13
96	ALPHEUS (19) J Payne 9-0	100	Shantou 13

Catterick runners and riders

2.10 Telford	3.50 Judo's Boy
2.40 Kean Waters	4.20 Wythers
3.18 Upper Gallery	6.00 Lady Sheila (best)

2.10 NEW ZEALAND MAIDEN ANCHOR BARRIN STAKES 5YO (w) £2,500

1	322 BOWLING LASSIE (12) J Taylor 9-11	5	McKewen 10
2	432 BRADIA (13) J Payne 9-11	6	McKewen 10
3	3102 BARRIN (12) J Taylor 9-11	7	McKewen 10
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92	3102 BARRIN (12) J Taylor 9-11	96	McKewen 10
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Golf

Monty slays weary Woosnam

David Davies at Wentworth

COLIN Montgomerie, Europe's No. 1 in seeming perpetuity, dismissed the latest of his No. 2s, Ian Woosnam, from the Toyota World Match Play championship here yesterday with an almost casual confidence.

Eight under par on the 18th tee, the 34th of the match, and three up, Montgomerie soon had two to win from eight feet and was conceded the match without being asked to putt. The result, which according to centuries-old custom and practice would have been recorded as 3 and 2, was duly noted as 4 and 2.

The latter version conforms strictly to the rules, the former far more to the etiquette of the game, particularly that which relates to consideration for one's opponent — a department which increasingly is being ignored in these highly competitive, deeply intense, over-exuberant days.

Still, by the end Woosnam was well beaten. He has won four tournaments this season and well over £500,000, but he seems weary. Over the past few weeks he has at times looked old beyond his years, with a frown never far from his face.

He is only 38 but he has been at or around the top of the game in Europe since 1982 and in the top 10 for 11 of those 14 years. But now he looks overweight, presumably because his aching back and legs will not let him exercise, he walks with the stooped gait of a man much older, and, something that seems vaguely wrong, he is forever taking tablets, sometimes even on the course, for relief from his spondylosis, a deteriorating spinal condition.

Very much to his credit, he refused to make his problems an excuse for yesterday's defeat. He said he felt fine, except for a few holes towards the end when the match was all but determined, and he blamed his putting more than anything. But he was also being outdriven by up to 20 yards by Montgomerie, a man he is more than capable of matching off the tee under normal circumstances. "I don't feel free enough in my body to hit it as far as I used to," he said.

To the eyes of those accustomed to the Woosnam swing,



Trapped in the trees... Ian Woosnam has very much to find his ball during his defeat by Montgomerie at Wentworth yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

It seemed as though he was fairly lashing at the ball, but to the Welshman himself it felt as though he was swinging slower than usual, and that can only be because, having lost form in recent weeks, he has been lashing even harder in previous tournaments than here. What ever, he has lost his rhythm and some of his length at a time when he needed all his assets to cope with Europe's finest.

Montgomerie, by contrast, was hitting the ball further than ever, he felt, and yesterday's display of driving was "as good as I can do. I have never hit the ball better or further off the tee".

The Scot thought that maybe it was something to do with match play giving him the freedom to have a go. "I even took my driver on the 8th and 18th holes," he said, "something I would never do in a strokeplay event like, say, the Volvo PGA when it's here."

Freudian slip when he said he thought it unfortunate that he and Woosnam were "paired together" for the match. There was, of course, a draw. He thought that Woosnam "might have gone on" had he played someone different, but that is something no one will ever know.

Phil Mickelson played the shot of the day at a crucially important moment in his match with Vijay Singh, and Singh was left with a simple chip and putt to win the match.

Rugby League

Kangaroos are coming, World Cup going

Andy Wilson in Auckland

ALMOST a year after announcing a Super League International calendar comprising a Great Britain tour of Australia this autumn and a World Cup in England and Wales next October, Maurice Lindsay and the International Board turned those arrangements on their head at a meeting here yesterday.

The first Ashes series since the Super League upheaval of last year will now be contested in England next autumn and the first Super League World Cup will be based in Australia, with a few games in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, the following year.

Super League is currently funding the British Lions' tour of PNG, Fiji and now New Zealand — a substantial loss seems certain — because in February its backer, News International, was banned from staging internationals in Australia. So an Ashes series is a year overdue.

Even the Australian Rugby League coach Bob Fulton, an implacable opponent of Super League but a staunch supporter of Kangaroo tours, may welcome this tour keeping the traditional European autumn slot.

The Kangaroos tour is likely to comprise three Tests in England and one in France, with fewer club games than in the past because it follows the World Club Championship that climaxes the Super League season. Lindsay was unable to give details of that yesterday, but hinted again

that it would include trans-hemisphere tours for the 12 European and 10 Australasian clubs.

As Great Britain staged the 1995 World Cup, it is Australia's turn anyway but the U-turn owes more to Super League's desire to demonstrate its ability to stage international football.

It is likely that Lindsay had to fight to salvage the consolation of the Kangaroos tour and delay the World Cup for a year, but his success will allow several nations time to regroup. One of them, South Africa, were yesterday readmitted to the International Board after a submission from the former English referee Barry Haskin, but the participation of Wales in 1998 remains in considerable doubt; even the European Championship involving Wales, England and France, which failed to arouse much interest, is set to be scrapped.

Other decisions were that Noa Nadrukku, the Fiji captain, is to be punished for pulling out of the Balfour Test against Great Britain, and New Zealand and Tonga will stage the first annual eight-nation Oceania Cup at the same time as a tri-series between New Zealand, New South Wales and Queensland in June.

In addition all international games will be subject to a 20 per cent levy, increasing to 30 per cent for World Cup matches, to fund development. So far, though, 10 per cent of the gate receipts for the six matches before today's Test against New Zealand would just about pay Lindsay's air fare to Sydney.

McVey to stay with Saints

THE Super League champions St Helens have been told that their Australian back-row forward Derek McVey can stay at Knowsley Road. But as a consequence they will release their prop Adam Fogarty.

Saints had been negotiating with the Australian Super League to keep the 23-year-old McVey, who played a major role in their title win last summer.

McVey was called home after the Australian Super League won its courtroom battle with the Australian Rugby League. He had joined St Helens after six

years with the Sydney club Balmain, now Sydney Tigers, because he had a year to go before his Super League contract in Australia took effect.

St Helens chief executive David Howes said: "We can keep him for 1997 and the arrangement is reviewable annually."

But the financial implications of keeping McVey have forced St Helens to release Fogarty, the former Halifax forward. The 27-year-old former heavyweight boxer, who has played 100 matches for the Saints since 1993, will become a free agent on January 1.

Squash

Jackman in fine form as England rout Finns

Ian McKenzie in Kuala Lumpur

NORFOLK'S Cassie Jackman yesterday put England into the semi-finals of the Perrier women's world team championship here with a 9-1, 9-1, 9-0 demolition of Nina Taimiaho of Finland.

Linda Charman at No. 2 and Fiona Geaves at three were equally impressive against the other Finns, Kira Paasivirta and Pia Karonen. Today, however, England face a tougher match against a South Africa team coached by the five-times British national champion Sue Cogswell.

"England are vulnerable and we will go for it," said Cogswell. "Charman can be beaten and Suzanne Horner, the likely No. 2, is not confident."

South Africa have brought in Carla Venter, known as the Road Runner, to face Horner. Venter does cover the court well — she ran the German Sabine Baum into the ground in 1hr 40min on Wednesday — but she has little finish. It is optimistic to think she may trouble a player of Horner's calibre, but Cogswell insisted: "If Suzanne makes mistakes, Carla will beat her."

South Africa have dropped Chantal Clifton-Parks, who staged two comebacks against Nicola Beumer of the Netherlands but still lost. When down 9-1, 9-1, 4-1, she rallied to take the third 9-6 but collapsed to 8-1 in the fourth as the Dutch woman rediscovered her game. Again Clifton-Parks came back as Beumer cracked under the pressure to lose the fourth 10-8 and go 6-0 down in the fifth. But then in dramatic scenes the match levelled at 9-9 before the South African's boast tipped the tin.

Australia were impressive in their quarter-final against Scotland and play the improved New Zealand next. With an eye on England, however, Australia's manager Dr David was scathing of Horner's throw-down rubber on Wednesday. She said: "Why pick a player who practices losing?"

Athletics

Arbeit has his work cut out

AMID the dozen or so housewives doing their weekly aerobics sessions to the sound of thumping pop music at a North-east fitness club, the trim, grey, bespectacled man dressed in the light-blue tracksuit of his former employers cuts a most unlikely figure.

Doctor Eckhart Arbeit, the coach who masterminded East Germany's dominance of world athletics between 1988 and 1990 when they won 50 medals in either the Olympics or the European Championships, has been employed for 10 days to sharpen the fitness of West Hartlepool's rugby players.

He has been brought to the struggling Courage League One club by their fitness adviser Frank Dick, British athletics' former director of coaching. "He and I were opponents in the old days but we always talked and exchanged ideas," said Dick. "It's a question of trying to open minds to different ideas and methods, and having someone who has a record like he has is not bad, is it?" Arbeit, 55, who is based in Berlin, had never seen a live rugby match until last Saturday when he travelled to watch Hartlepool's victory over Old Watsonians. He was impressed by what he witnessed.

"This is the hardest sport I have ever seen," he said. "It's much harder than football because you need strength and endurance." He has a brief to work with individual players, identifying weaknesses, to make them stronger and fitter.

In the past six years his expertise has been in demand not only from athletes, as Hartlepool's interest confirms. He advised Juventus before they won the European Cup last season and has worked with the Italy volleyball team.

Yet for all Arbeit's success he has been forced to work abroad ever since the Berlin Wall came down, because his reputation does not sit well with the west Germans who with run sport in the unified country and are uncomfortable about the GDR's dubious heritage.

In its quest for recognition — an endeavour conceived in the Fifties when it was a pa-



Arbeit... visiting coach

Duncan Mackay on a 10-day mission at West Hartlepool

riah state with few diplomatic ties — East Germany would stop at nothing. If set up a systematic doping programme which included world record holders such as Marita Koch and Heike Drechsler, "I knew this went on, of course I did," admitted Arbeit, giving a small smile. "It's no longer a secret. It happened."

The vast East German sports apparatus has now been dismantled and the flow of steroids has dried up. Although Arbeit still looks back on those days with nostalgia, he concedes that democracy has been for the greater good of Germany. "Ja," he said, slipping briefly out of his perfect English. "It was much better for me than it is now. But I used to travel the world and knew all the problems of the GDR. The situation is still a little complicated in Germany, but in a short time it

will grow up and the economy will be very strong. Arbeit claimed the focus on drug abuse had obscured the remarkable success of a machine that won more Olympic gold medals in the Games it contested than any other nation except the Soviet Union, a country 15 times larger.

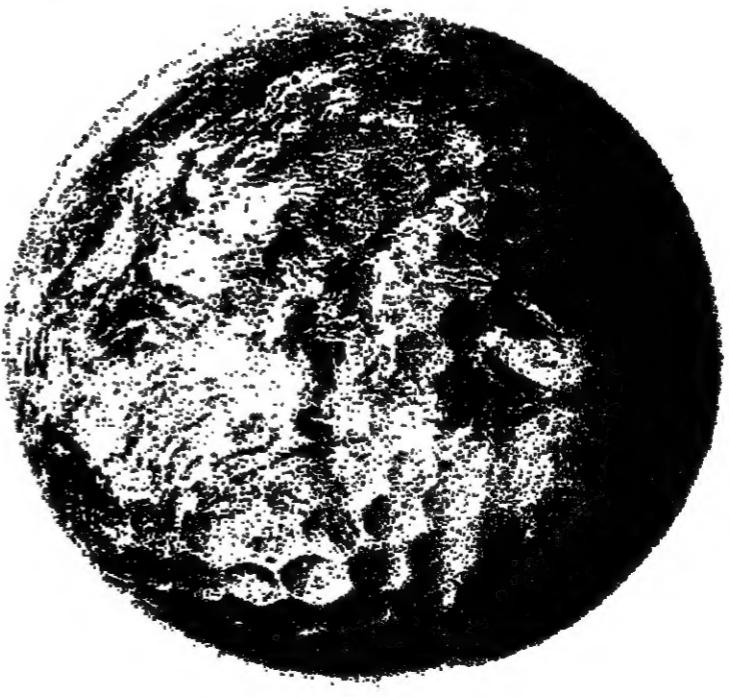
He added that the organisation, technical ability and resources that were the envy of the rest of the world also played an essential part in allowing a country of 16 million to outperform rivals many times its size. At the world-famous College of Physical Culture in Leipzig, the former nerve centre of East German sport where Arbeit trained and was based, they boasted that a fifth of the gross national product was channelled into maintaining the nation's domination of the playing fields of the world.

"The only level we were interested in was world class. For me an Olympic final is nothing, winning is all that matters. We spent 25 years building up a successful system, but now it's disappeared. No one has the money to do this any more."

The doctor's name may have been tarnished in Germany by the drug revelations, even though he was not directly involved in carrying out the state's official drugs programme, but he is popular elsewhere because he is still recognised as one of sport's leading experts on conditioning and strength training. Mark Ring, the former Wales international centre who is now West Hartlepool's director of coaching, said that despite being unfashionable and at the wrong end of the table his club had fought off Harlequins to secure Arbeit's services.

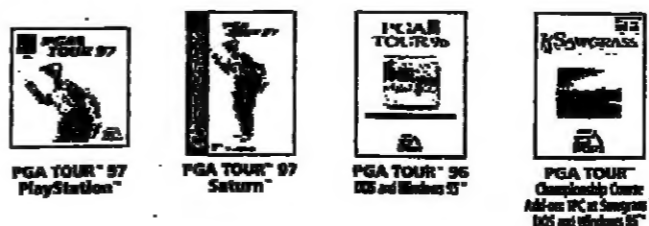
"He's costing us a small fortune so obviously we consider his visit to be vital," Ring said. "Frank Dick's done a superb job getting the boys the fittest team in the top division. But the way the season's going Dr Arbeit's contribution could be vital. He has been a real eye-opener. What we've learnt is too secretive to be handed out. Once the rich clubs get wind of this I'm sure they'll think it's the way forward too."

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IF IT'S IN THE GAME, IT'S IN THE GAME™

SportsGuardian



Sitting pretty... Robbie Fowler scrambles the ball over the line to put Liverpool level at 1-1 after Sion had taken a surprise lead in Switzerland last night PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE BRUNSON

European Cup Winners' Cup, second round, first leg: FC Sion 1, Liverpool 2

Liverpool leave Sion with relief

Ian Ross in Sion

THE "house full" signs will be posted at Anfield in a fortnight but only those Liverpool supporters whose blind faith outweighs their reason and logic will assemble in anticipation of that old European favourite, the second-leg cake-walk. Liverpool should have won an engaging game by a far more generous margin, but to underestimate opponents who, quite clearly, have the potential for surprise would

be foolish, maybe even fatal. Even so, Liverpool will be content. A place in the last eight of the only European competition they have still to win beckons. Among those reduced to watching at the Tourbillon Stadium last night was Stan Collymore, an £8.5 million footballer whose career since his arrival from Nottingham Forest 15 months ago has been punctuated by embarrassing troughs. The man who would be king plumbd the depths again last night, turfed out to accommodate the return of

Robbie Fowler after a three-match absence. It would now seem that a half-fit Fowler is a more attractive option than a fully-fit Collymore. Not even when Fowler was withdrawn in the second half could the Liverpool manager Roy Evans find room for his expensive misfit. As expected, Sion proved to be more exuberant than expert although, curiously, a willingness to chase enthusiastically any form of forward pass — however over-hit, however misdirected — unsettled the Liverpool defence. After Berger had gone close

inside the opening minute, Sion's football peaked in the 11th. Since emerging as his club's latest bright star Matteo has made few mistakes — but he came up with a real gem last night. Having collected Quentin's punt forward, Matteo had only to roll the ball back to his goalkeeper James to transform defence into attack. His back pass fell short and once Bonvin had overcome his sense of surprise, he had only to move clear of James's challenge before finding an unprotected target.

Liverpool's sense of purpose quickly returned. Unable to halt McManaman's raking runs down the left flank, Sion foolishly allowed their back line to slip further and further towards their own goal, a tactically naive response to danger which was to provide Liverpool with ample space in which to manoeuvre. Even then it was the 24th minute before they found a way through, Fowler tapping in his first European goal from close range after Berger's effort had come back off the chest of the goalkeeper Lehmann, who made some superb saves later on. While it would have been indiscreet for Sion to covet what they already held, it would certainly have been unwise to place many fragile

eggs in one basket in search of a second goal. But in the end it did not matter because as the evening wore on it was Liverpool who answered the more pertinent questions. Scales and Fowler both wasted reasonable opportunities before Sion were finally engulfed by the rising red tide. Exactly an hour had passed when Barnes rose unattended at the near post to turn in a Bjornbye corner with a deft header. It was a moment of precision lifted from the training ground and one which, in all probability, has decided the tie. Sion: Lehmann; Gaspaz, Quevren, Milton, Zambor (Chapuisot, Sionni, Wicky, Lonitz, Sylvestre, Varvarovskiy, Lukic, Bonini, Rincon, 80). Liverpool: James; McAteer, Matteo, Bob, Scales, Bjornbye, McManaman, Barnes, Thomas, Berger, Fowler (Redmond, 86). Referee: A Lopez-Nieto (Spain).

Inside track on Carling's hug mates



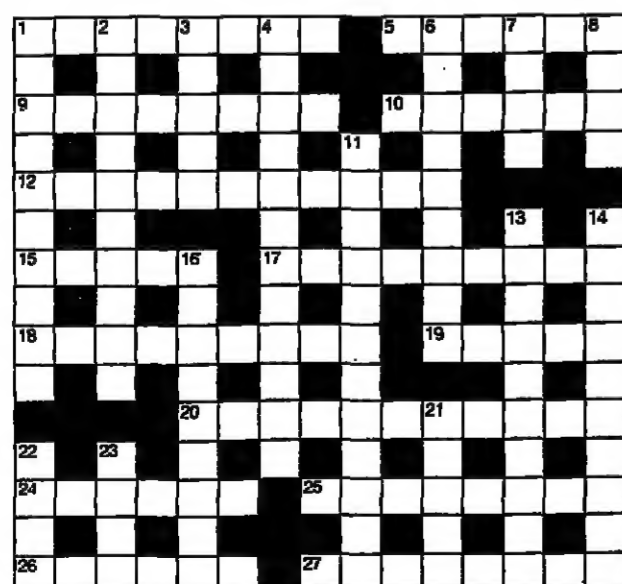
Vincent Hanna

LET us peep through the keyhole of a cellar in Edinburgh. Fifteen young men in skimpy clothing stand huddled. Their leader motions them towards him — "In here, boys, close" — and opens his arms wide in an embrace. They converge into one entwined and arms-clasped union and beat a clattering tattoo on the concrete floor with their boots, louder and louder. Someone bellows: "One to one! One to one!" "C'mon in, fighter, fighter," urges the leader. "We do not lose. We do not lose. We blast them. We blast them. Nothing else, nothing else."

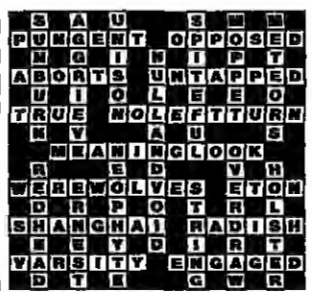
Frank Keating's description of the final moments before Will Carling led England out at Murrayfield last March engulfs us with the intensity of its imagery, at once homoerotic and militaristic. Nowhere, except perhaps in American college football, could one imagine such a scene. In the States, Jesus would be playing for the team as well. Keating found himself stranded with the England team in Durban during the last World Cup. His relationship with the players led to them asking him to be their official scribe for the 1995-96 season. He was given unique access, along with a photographer, Jon Nicholson. The book is a glorious portrait and far from flattering. But the author's skill ensures that people will take from it what they want to see. The players will love it, as much as others will be repelled. A lot of hugging and bonding goes on. "Each is now twining close together as one in a full company's huddled, all-embracing, final hug, out of which various whispered unintelligible deep-throated private imprecations of valour and resolve are answered with great grunted collective peals which assert the surety of bonded brotherhood. A sort of raucous ultimate of the Freemason's handshake." Keating confesses he finds this "school playground juvenile". Other things are less juvenile. Carling's captancy has a militaristic, xenophobic feel that makes one believe he could never have led the Lions. Here is part of his warm-up speech in Edinburgh: "I remember going down to Hereford not long after the Gulf War... to visit the SAS boys. We were in deep awe of them. I remember saying to the soldiers: 'If I'd done that I'd be shitting myself.' They looked at us: 'Nonsense, it was just a job... if we had a dearest wish it would be to be like you lads, to walk out and represent our country.' They tell me when I go to Scotland: 'Carling, you're truly hated here.' If that's their context, then I hate them back. If they hate me, I hate them."

Guardian Crossword No 20,787

Set by Janus



- 20 I do upstairs work in French painter's atelier (5, 6)
 - 24 Drink-bearer (6)
 - 25 Stick to the book and be consistent (8)
 - 26 One who believes he is in the race (6)
 - 27 Used near or below the surface in the main (8)
- Down**
- 1 Spring sign in borders (10)
 - 2 Prosaic Italian clad in rough tunic (10)
 - 3 First principle when given out twice (5)
 - 4 Unseen recorder of embarrassing scenes with whipped cream in play (6,6)
 - 6 Precious part of flashing smile perhaps (4,5)
 - 7 Ale knocked back with Northern impetuosity (4)
 - 8 Quiet journalist's cast off (4)
 - 11 It may cause a stir to see gospel preacher indulge in amorous dalliance (7,5)
 - 13 Order pen-case and get tinned veg (6,4)
 - 14 It is up to my caste to order something exactly to my taste (2,3,2,3)
 - 16 Inclination to soak head (5)
 - 21 I object to article's subject (5)

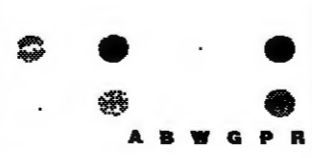


CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,786

- 22 Goes one better over notice (4)
- 23 Fish with some superior features (4)

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- Across**
- 1 Sad defender of the sockeye salmon (4-4)
 - 5 Corresponds with soldier over a long period (6)
 - 9 Rebellion following early alarm signal? (8)
 - 10 Many depart after split (6)
 - 12 Cat perhaps responsible for family huff (8,3)
 - 15 Calls for sporting arenas (5)
 - 17 Usual practice on a railway (9)
 - 18 Superficial manifestation of male pride (9)
 - 19 Indian engaged by French industrialist (5)

Henman keeps Rusedski in his place

TIM HENMAN upheld his ranking as British No. 1 and maintained his unbeaten record against Greg Rusedski when he beat his main domestic rival 7-6, 7-5 in the second round of the Czech Indoor tournament in Ostrava yesterday. It was the second time they have met. Last November Henman won 1-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the final of the British national championship at Telford, when he was very much the underdog and the Canadian-born Rusedski was the British No. 2. Since then the 23-year-old Henman has had an outstanding year. He took over the No. 1 British ranking after the retirement of Jeremy Bates, reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals and saw his world ranking rise to No. 26, the highest



At full stretch... Rusedski battles Henman PETR JOSEK

He sent down 19 aces during the match but Henman countered that advantage with superior ground strokes and service returns. Consistent all-court skills and effective serve-and-volley tactics gave the seventh-seeded Henman a slight edge in the first set, which he won 7-2 on a tie-break. The second set was also close, Henman taking it 7-5 to go into the quarter-finals. Boris Becker withdrew from the Czech tournament yesterday because of recurring pain in the right wrist he injured at Wimbledon this summer. He is in danger of failing to qualify for a record 12th appearance at the season-ending ATP Tour Championship. He trails Wayne Ferreira for the eighth and final place in Hanover.

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